50¢
April 19th, 1979
Issue No. 16

The Long Island FISHERMAN

MACKERELMANIA

SURF SIDE:
BIG APPLE BASS

Spring Flounder in
Great South Bay

East End
Snowshoes

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 14, NO. 16 APRIL 19, 1979

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

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About the Cover—

It won't be long now before scenes like this will be common around the beaches of Long Island as the bass start to migrate. *Photo by Pete Barrett.*

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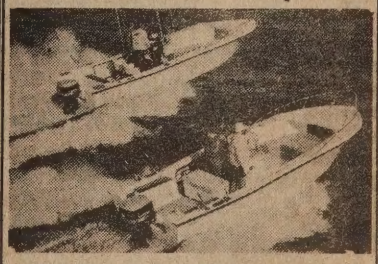

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The Fighting Chair

MYTH & MYSTIQUE OF FISHING THE STERN

Hardly a week goes by that we don't receive a letter from an irate reader complaining about being unable to get a "preferred" fishing position on the stern of an open boat. Despite arriving several hours before sailing time to reserve a good spot, the letter writers complain that all the stern positions are already claimed by rods tied to the rail for the boat's "regulars" and "professional" pool fishermen; some have even protested that the vessel's mates reserved the stern positions for themselves. And because everyone "knows" that the fishing on the stern is always better than the bow and side positions of the boat, these practices were unfair to the average fisherman paying good money to fish aboard an open boat.

I can sympathize with these readers because I also used to subscribe to the myth and mystique of fishing from the stern. Actually, it was my father who did the subscribing—I was too young at the time to be involved in such matters, and Dad did all the decision-making. From the age of six until eighteen, virtually all of my fishing was done from either a rented rowboat or open boat with my father and one or more of my brothers, and occasionally, my sister. Everyone in my family was a fisherman, except Ma—whose sporting life begins when the Mets start spring training and ends when they are eliminated from contention for the playoffs (which this year may be as early as July). In any case, the rest of us all became avid fishermen: Tommy the Lethargic, who never got excited; Lucky John, who would catch a fish no matter what he did; Eddie the Loser, who couldn't catch a fish no matter what he did; Rotten Rónnie, who had the annoying habit of consistently outfishing the "men" long before women's lib came into vogue; Scott the Experimenter, who was constantly seeking new ways not to catch fish on the unusual theory that by eliminating all the "not-to's," he would be left with all the "how-to's," and, therefore, eventually become a great fisherman; and Dad the Master, who achieved such a noble title not due to his expertise as a fisherman, but out of recognition of being the one who provided transportation and footed the bill of all our fishing expeditions.

In any case, Dad was a confirmed believer that in order to catch fish from an open boat you had to fish from the stern, and went to great lengths to secure one of these preferred positions. I remember one trip in particular that illustrates the depth of this obsession, and how it backfired. It was the first trip of a new fishing season, for spring cod aboard one of the earlier Vikings skippered by the late Captain Carl Forsberg. My father spent several weeks preparing for the trip by repairing and oiling the reels, putting on new line, re-wrapping and varnishing rods, etc. Although we weren't going out until Sunday, we arrived at Montauk early Saturday afternoon for the sole purpose of claiming our spots on the stern, which would guarantee our success the following day. When the Viking pulled into her slip, my brother Tom and I scurried aboard while she was still discharging her passengers and quickly lashed three rods to the stern rail to stake our claim. Only the top halves of the rods were used for this purpose to discourage the theft of our precious (although antique) fishing tackle; the matching butts and reels remained in the car.

That night my brother Tom and I slept in the car, which was parked close to the boat in Tuma's parking lot. Not wanting to crowd us in the cramped car and possibly prevent us from getting a good night's sleep before a long day of fishing, my father sacrificed his own sleep and was forced to stay awake all night by standing at the bar in Salivar's. Somehow he lost track of the time while thus engaged, and woke us up late. We gulped down breakfast and quickly unloaded the gear from the car to the boat, just getting aboard as the mates were untying the lines.

On the way out to the fishing grounds my father started to rig up the rods and sent me and Tom down into the cabin to get the rod butts and reels. We were in the cabin for only a short time before we came to the horrifying conclusion that one of us (we couldn't decide who) had forgotten

to take the butts out of the trunk of the car. A half-hour later we were still arguing as to which of us would break the news to Dad, who finally came down into the cabin to find out what the hold-up was. Although we broke the news as diplomatically as possible (each placing the blame on our stupid brother, naturally), we still had to listen to a half-hour lecture about our intelligence quotients and his growing suspicion that our Mother had actually found us both floating in a reed basket on a sump somewhere in The Bronx. By this time, the boat had arrived at the fishing grounds and Captain Forsberg gave a toot on the whistle, which saved us both from additional verbal abuse. Naturally, by the time we had arranged to rent "boat" rods, and were rigged up and baited, our positions at the stern had been claim-jumped by a trio of the meanest-looking codfishermen I have ever seen. So much for arriving a day early for a spot on the stern.

As a result of being fortunate enough to have my own boat I haven't fished on an open boat for many years now, although I attempted to only a few years ago. I needed some pictures of codfishing for my file for future articles and decided to go out on the newly-arrived **Peconic Queen III** at Montauk. A few days earlier than the trip, I called the late Captain, Lester Behan, and asked if he would please reserve a spot for me on the stern with a boat rod. He said he'd love to, but my request was impossible. It was September, and he had fishermen who sailed on the night bluefishing trip just so that they could claim a stern position for the next day's codfishing trip to Coxes Ledge! And if that doesn't convince you of the obsession that some anglers have for fishing only from the stern, a story I recently heard should. The incident happened a few years ago, but did not receive any publicity for reasons that should be obvious. It seems that a half-dozen fishermen arrived the previous night on the open boat to stake their claims on stern positions, then slept in the cabin. Upon awakening the next morning they discovered, to their growing anger, that the rods they had tied to the stern rail the night before were gone—now neatly stacked in a corner. When the "culprits" were confronted, the scene quickly mushroomed into out-takes from the movies "On the Waterfront" and "West Side Story," with fillet knives rattling and a few of the participants ending up in the drink. Do you believe it? Fortunately, I was told, no one was seriously hurt.

Before we discuss possible solutions to a more equitable manner of determining who should be permitted to fish from the stern, it may be prudent at this point to analyze the basic premise that creates all the problems: is the fishing from the stern in fact that much better than that from the bow or side of the boat? Personally, I don't buy the premise, and consider it to be one of a long line of myths about the secret to successful fishing—my upbringing to the contrary. About the only time that I will concede that it **does** make a difference is when the boat is anchored while bottom fishing, and even more so when chum is employed. This is because the fish can be expected under these conditions to swim up-current, giving those fishing from the stern first crack at them. But other than this one situation, there is no reason to believe that the fishing from the stern is any better or worse than the fishing from any other part of the boat.

Unfortunately, it is hard to convince fishermen of this because the myth has a built-in factor that makes it self-fulfilling. Because of the myth itself, everyone naturally wants to fish the stern. But who **actually** gets to fish there? First, semi-professional "pool" fishermen who have an economic incentive to arrive the night—or even the day—before to stake their claim on the stern. Also, the "regulars" of the boat who have sailed so often they are friends with the boat's captain, who understandably will accommodate the request of a regular customer to put out a "boat" rod to reserve him a position on the stern. So it's understandable why most of the fish are usually caught by those fishing the stern, regardless of how or what the boat is fishing for: it's **not** because the fishing is any better at the stern—it's because that's where the **best fishermen** are fishing from! They're more experienced, more serious about their fishing, and spend more time at the rail with their lines in the water than the "occasional" angler fishing from the bow or side of the boat. So it shouldn't come as any surprise when they catch more fish. Unfortunately, when the stern fishermen actually do catch more fish, other anglers aboard believe it was because they were fishing from the stern, rather than crediting them with simply being better all-around fishermen to start with—which only serves to perpetuate the myth.

So the myth still receives wide acceptance, and we continue to get letters from irate fishermen. There are many solutions, but all have drawbacks and would only cause confusion or more inequities. One suggestion is to charge those fishing from the stern a higher fare: let the law of supply and demand enter the picture. Or how about holding a

(Continued on page 15.)

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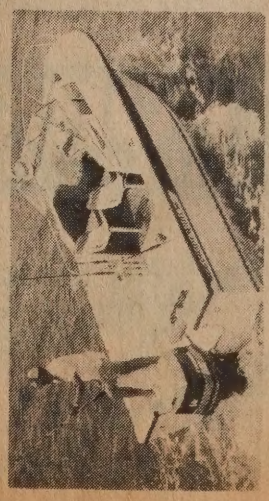

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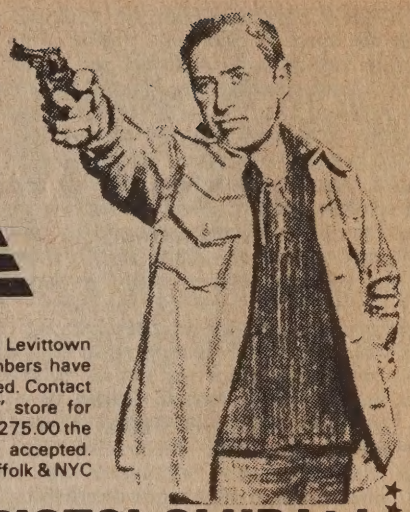

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Pass It On...

FREE "STOP SHOREHAM" STICKER

The Marine Environmental Council of Long Island announced that bumper stickers reading, "STOP SHOREHAM" will be given out at their next monthly recycling drive. They will go to persons bringing a bundle of newspapers or magazines to the Pathmark parking lot on Merrick Road in Seaford, near Massapequa border. The date is Saturday, April 21, from 10AM to 4PM. Volunteers will unload cars also of aluminum and old car batteries.

MECLI is a major Long Island environmental organization seeking to bring about a safe and clean environment.

USCG AUXILIARY CLASS GRADUATION

You're invited to the FIRST USCG Auxiliary public education class Graduation of the 40th Anniversary Year! This June the Auxiliary will be 40-years-old and our class will be the first step in a series of activities marking this historic event. So ... why not join us on Monday, June 4, 1979 at 8PM, Bldg. 272, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, N.Y. Sponsored by Flotilla 11-7, Plumb Beach.

For information, call 998-6902, evenings.

USCG—DIV. XI

On Saturday, June 23, 1979, Division XI, Rockaway Inlet, USCG Aux., in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Auxiliary, is sponsoring a SAFE BOATING PARADE and WATER SAFETY DEMONSTRATION.

We would like the honor of your presence at our Safe Boating Parade to take place between 1PM and 6Pm in Island Channel, Jamaica Bay, just off Canarsie Pier in Brooklyn, NY.

Any time during that time period that you may be able to squeeze us into your busy schedule would be greatly appreciated. Security and taxi service can and will be provided if you can give us an acknowledged time for pickup and return. Air pickup will be from Gateway National Recreation Area—Floyd Bennett Air Field, or drive directly to Canarsie Pier, Rockaway Parkway exit on the Belt Parkway, Exit 13.

3 LESSON SKIPPER'S SPECIAL

This brief course in basic seamanship and boating skills is being presented for those boating enthusiasts who cannot commit extended time for safe boating instruction. Classes (total of six hours) are scheduled for Thursday, May 3, 10,

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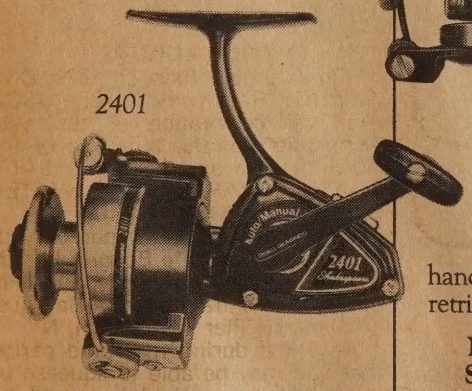

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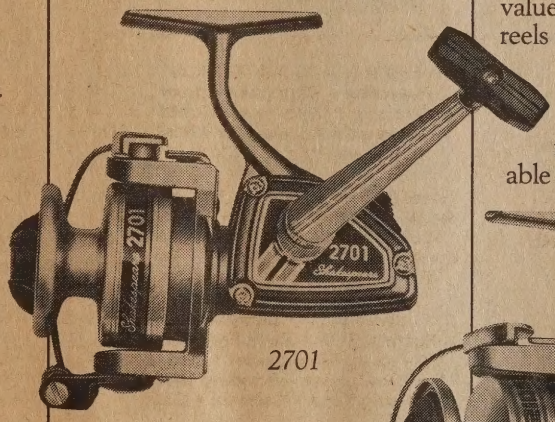

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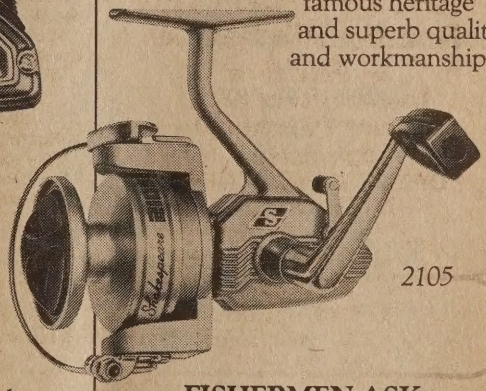

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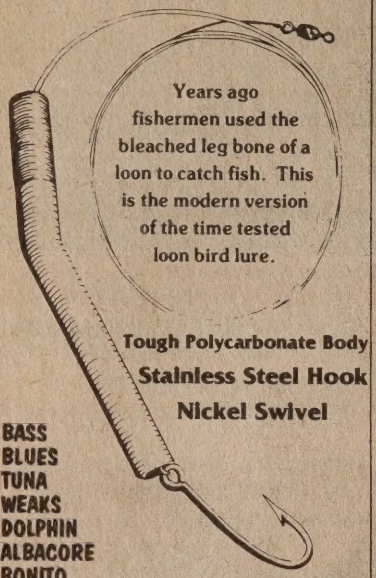

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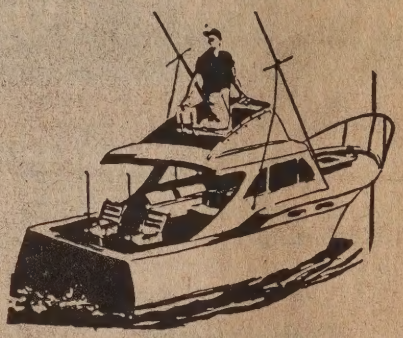
17, 1979 at 7:30 p.m., at Diamond Point Yacht Club, Canarsie, Bklyn.

The areas covered will be prelude to boating, safety afloat; under way and returning to port, and aids to safe boating. A fascinating slide program will help simplify and enhance the important concepts and safety requirements which will be discussed.

Cost of materials and registration fee is $4.50 per person. For more information and registration, call Ron Blicksilver between 10AM-4PM, at 212-838-4400, extension. 14; or by appearance at initial session.



CLUB NEWS

GREAT SOUTH BAY ANGLERS

The Great South Bay Anglers will present Mickey Chiarenza of Tri-Fin Lures as their guest speaker for the Club's next meeting on Wednesday, April 25 at 8PM. The meeting will be held in the Town of Islip Recreation Center off of Smithtown Ave. in Bohemia. Guests are welcome.

The Group's annual Dinner Dance will be held at "Bronco Charlie's" on Saturday night, April 21. Some of the many awards to be presented include:

LARGEST WEAKFISH:
Fred Golofaro, 12 lb. 10 oz.
John Nahorny, 12 lbs. 10 oz.

LARGEST BASS:
SURF: Otto Reuss, 22 lbs. 4 oz.
BOAT: Fred Golofaro, 46 lb. 9 oz.

LARGEST BLUES:
SURF: Joe Chlanda, 16 lbs. 9 oz.
BOAT: Barbara Reuschle, 18 lbs.

John Newhouse Memorial—Combined Wt.: Fred Golofaro.

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS' CLUB

The Huntington Anglers' Club has opened their membership rolls for active fishermen in any category (saltwater). We meet at the VFW Hall, 210 W. Pulaski Rd., Huntington Station, every 3rd Monday at 8PM. We have films and refreshments.

For further information, contact the "Four Winds Tackle Shop," 1457 New York Ave., Huntington Station, NY.; 516-421-1184.

The Mill River Rod & Gun Club is one of the clubs we have Derbies with; and the Manhasset Sportsman Club is tops.

NOR WEST FISHING CLUB

The Nor West Fishing Club held its annual dinner dance on Saturday, March 24 at the Wheatley Hills Tavern in Westbury. Trophies presented at this time were for:

Largest Bass—Surf: Rick Albin, 54.4
Largest Blue—Surf: Rick Albin, 14.6
Largest Weak—Surf: Joe Albani, 9.4
Largest Blue—Boat: M. Danburger, 17 lbs.

Junior member Mike Danburger, Jr., caught Largest Boat Blue, 12.8.

Junior member Steven Sherry caught Largest Surf Blue, 10.12.

Total number of point—3074—by Rick Albin.

Our new officers are as follows: Pres.—Billy Lomnicki; Vice-Pres.—Dave Smith; Sec.—Billy Kraynak; Treas.—Earl Theodosen; Entertainment Chairman—Joe Albani; Contest Chairman—Chip Albion, and Publicity Chairman—Chip Rodgers.

L.I. FLY TYERS

A showing of the most exquisite wood carvings of game fish by Hank Tomkalski, will be presented at the L.I. Fly Tyers' April 20 meeting, at the Bowery Savings Bank, 5100 Sunrise Highway (2nd floor), Massapequa Park, 8PM to 10PM.

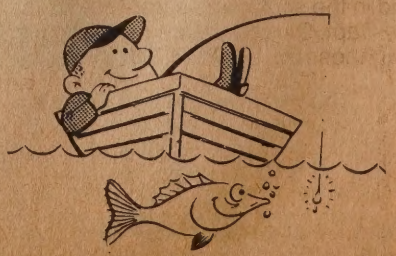
There will also be some fly tying demonstrations.

Mr. Tomkalski is not only concerned with the carved fish, but perhaps more with the scenery of their habitat. The dioramas each realistically depict fish in their underwater environments. Each fish is beautifully carved and painted and arranged in convincing natural position.

SURFSIDE 3 TUNA CLUB

The SurfSide 3 Tuna Club will present a film on "Shark Tagging" on April 26. A guest speaker will be present to answer any questions on tagging procedures and the ecology factors behind tagging and releasing of sharks.

Coffee and cake will be served after the films. For reservations and more information, contact Pete Sindone between 8AM and 5PM at 286-8198 or Mike McManus between 6PM and 8PM at 666-7899.



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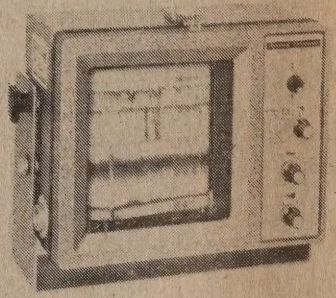

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ANTI-THEFT LOCK INFO

Would appreciate your assistance in obtaining any information regarding "Anti-theft Locks" for my 85 h.p. Johnson. The locks fit around the protruding bolt that holds the motor on the transom. I know the locks exist up to 25 h.p.

I already lost one motor and am trying to take preventive measures now.

Thank you for your help in this matter. *D. Shovelson, 1009 E. 55th St., Bklyn., NY 11234, 212-763-8660.*

If any of our readers have any information that can help a fellow fisherman out, please give him a call or drop a letter in the mail. Scott S.

N.Y. SPORTFISHING COUNCIL PETITIONS PRESIDENT CARTER AND OTHERS TO STOP DUMPING OF DREDGE MATERIALS IN LONG ISLAND SOUND

The New York Sportfishing Council forwarded a petition, with 2,438 names demanding a stop to the dumping of dredge from Connecticut harbors, to President Carter; Senators Javits, Moynihan, Ribicoff; Congressman Jerome Ambro; County Executives Purcell and Klein; Huntington Town Supervisor Kenneth Butterfield and Eckhardt C. Beck, Regional Administrator of the EPA.

Following is the text of the NYSC letter:

Mr. President:

On behalf of the 2438 signers of the attached petition, the New York Sportfishing Council urgently requests that you take all necessary action to stop the United States Army Corps of Engineers from dumping 250,000 cubic yards of toxic dredge from the harbors of New Haven and Stamford, Connecticut, into Long Island Sound starting March 26.

According to William G. Gordon, Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the pollutant load of these sediments is very high. He states that physical and chemical analysis of the sediments indicate elevated levels of lead, zinc, chromium, copper, oil, grease and organics.

We demand, in the name of the millions of citizens whom these signatures represent, that you exercise your mandate to protect the health and welfare of all the people. Long Island Sound is one of the most beautiful bodies of water in the world. It is regularly used by millions of bathers, sport and commercial fishermen and boaters. It is also one of America's foremost

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breeding grounds for sea birds and dozens of fish species, not to mention its significance to our billion dollar sportfishing and boating industry.

To permit the Army Corps of Engineers to perpetrate this hideous assault on our environment would be a perfidy and a slap in the face of reason, justice and our common sensibilities.

Mr. Carter, the people are waiting and watching. On behalf of all of us, please stop the dumping before it is too late. George Gerhold, President.

DOES DOCUMENT JUST DISCOVERED DOOM FISHING AS WE KNOW IT?

The original of this document was found near the location of a recent UFO sighting. It appears to be part of an anthropological report.

I am enclosing a translation of the document to you for your perusal and possible publication. *T.W. Stone*

RITES OF SPRING

In some regions, the inhabitants practice a springtime ritual known as "opening day." On or about the time of the vernal equinox, they gather in large groups around certain bodies of water and spend the day thrashing the surface of the water with long sticks. It has been theorized that this ritual has practical aspects; i.e., the gathering of fish for food. However, qualified observers report that the possession of fish by participants of this ritual is quite uncommon. Based on random samplings of the contents of the various pockets and pouches commonly found adorning the participants of this ritual, our conclusion is that this is but another occasion for the ceremonial ingestion of ethyl alcohol, so common among these curious creatures. *NanU-nanU!*

Unfortunately for mankind, it appears that our visitors observed freshwater trout fishermen on opening day and have concluded that homo sapiens are harmless. We would have been much better off had they observed a group of saltwater surf fishermen during the fall run attired in their full battle regalia—waders and wet suits (only the officers wear wet suits), long gaffs, short gaffs, a third eye shing from atop their heads, catapulting large chunks of wood armed with a half-dozen hooks into the darkness with a thirteen-foot spear—if that doesn't scare them away, mankind may be doomed. I know it scares me—that's why I fish from boats. Scott S.

HUNTINGTON ANGLER WRITES CORPS OF ENGRS. ON DUMPING

Enclosed is copy of a letter from the Huntington Anglers' Club sent to Col. John P. Chandler of the Army Corps of Engineers regarding dumping in L.I. Sound. I think it would be appropriate if it was published in The Long Island Fisherman. *Dan Marro, Corr. Sec'y. & Public Relations, Huntington Anglers' Club.*

I see by the newspapers and the news media that the dumping of dredged toxic materials from the State of Conn. has taken place regardless of the thousands of protests from the people of Huntington. It is a sad state of affairs when public officials and judges do as they please, regardless of the opinion of the public, even though such public opinion has been substantiated by scientific evidence that such dumping would be harmful. I could understand such arbitrary decisions being made in Russia, but not in the good, old USA. It is also a sad state of affairs when the highest courts of the land look to break down the U.S. Constitution and the laws of the United States, which have been on the books since the birth of our nation, stating that most of our laws are unconstitutional and should be revoked. Their opinions, surely, do not make for a satisfactory redress from such a complaint, such as ours. I understand when the case was brought to court by the Town of Huntington, the judge stated he didn't know too much about such matters, and could not render a restraining order.

Several years ago in L.I. Sound, quite a few striped bass had fin rot. The sight of the fish was enough to turn your stomach. Needless to say, we threw the fish back in the water. No one seemed to know what caused it; apparently some sort of pollution. Fortunately, it disappeared.

Fifty years ago, I caught blue claw crabs from the shore of the Belt Pkwy. in Bklyn., and the crabs smelled of gasoline and fuel oil from N.Y. Harbor, which proves such toxic items will be absorbed by the fish and shellfish. The harbor of N.Y. are also in a sad state with all the flotsam and jetsam. Last year, and currently, there are cases of Legionaires disease, causing many deaths—even the scientists cannot pinpoint the cause. Most likely some form of air pollution.

Must we wait before someone dies, or gets sick from polluted waters, or will our government heed the wishes of the public and stop such polluting before it is too late.

Here's hoping your office will consider the facts, which on general principle alone should be regarded—as dumping of toxic waste materials in L.I. Sound can have nothing but detrimental effects on our health and environment. Awaiting a reply, I am, Sincerely, Dan Marro.

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Harry E. Mund,
Robertsdale, Alabama.

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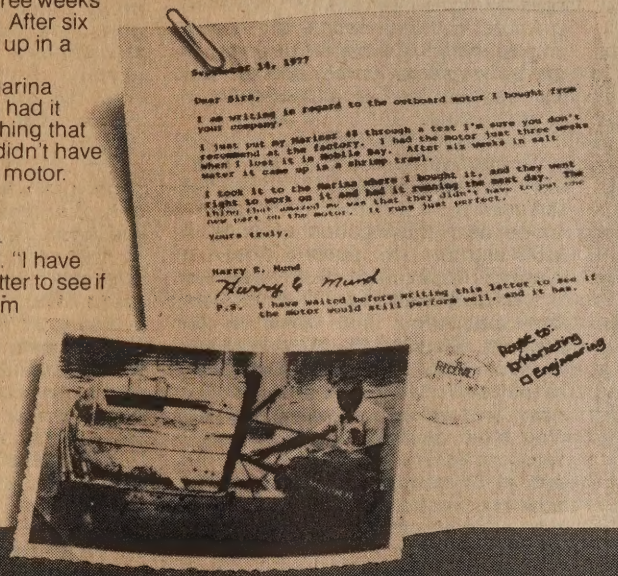
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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Captree Boatmen's Association Hopes to Stop Trawling in Great South Bay

With fish prices climbing steadily, there has been a recent surge in commercial activity by part-timers that is threatening to get out of hand. The cost of gill nets and small trawls can be recovered quickly under the present circumstances, and the temptation to make a quick buck in this fashion is hard for many to resist. In point of fact, many of the commercial fishermen working western Long Island waters have always been "moonlighters." However, that trend has accelerated rapidly in recent years. The big attractions have been the spawning weakfish in Great South Bay—and now the concentrations of flounder and fluke.

The New York Sportfishing Council has addressed part of this problem with the introduction of Senate Bill S 2583 (Pisani) and Assembly Bill A 3296 (Yevoli), which would prohibit the use of gill nets in Great South Bay during May (the prime spawning period) and also limit the recreational catch. This legislation is extremely important and long overdue—but it won't pass unless every fisherman interested in the conservation of the species asks his Senator and Assemblyman to back the bills!

The other important proposal has not received sponsorship as of the time this was written. The Captree Boatmen's Association is proposing to extend the present ban on trawling in bay waters west of Wantagh Causeway, all the way east to Smith Point Bridge. This is a very important effort that deserves our support. Trawling is, unfortunately, a very "dirty" fishery. It is not very selective; kills great numbers of small and unwanted marine life; and may have adverse effects on shellfish sets and marine vegetation. The lack of any better means of harvest offshore means that we have to accep the negative aspects of this method. About the only way to reduce the damage done is to require large mesh sizes in the cod end. However, even then many undersized fish are destroyed as soon as the cod end fills up. As we've found with the Japanese squid fleets, the fishery can be cleaned up considerably by the use of "off-bottom" trawls. However, this is only helpful in cases where only species that school off bottom are sought.

The use of even small trawls in shallow bay waters is a bad practice and, if allowed to expand into a big operation, could impact significantly on the very important Great South Bay sport fishery for flounder and fluke. The massive rod and reel pressure on the adult fish is already a significant problem. State biologists recognized this sometime ago when they recommended a fourteen inch limit for fluke. This was based on a study which proved that the small fluke entering the Bay in May and June were being caught so rapidly that there were few left by August and September. The fourteen inch limit requires the return of fish with little meat on them in order to provide both more and bigger fish later in the season—a very practical management procedure.

The time to nip this problem in the bud is right now! Once even "moonlighters" become established in a fishery, it's very hard to get them out. Since this matter has been taken out of the hands of the towns (who want to protect the very valuable recreational fisheries), it's essential that the State recognize its obligation to conserve the fisheries and prevent needless confrontations.

State Department Finally Fills In Council on Canadian Treaty

After a vigorous protest by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council relative to the lack of information provided by the State Department on the fisheries treaty with Canada, a representative was sent to the March Council meeting to present the details. Doug Marshall conceded that many problems remain to be ironed out. The biggest point of dispute, the boundary line on Georges Bank, will be handled by either the World Court or a panel of judges from other countries. The implementing legislation provides for a joint commission which will control the stocks that migrate between the boundaries. The stock of primary interest to mid-Atlantic fishermen is the mackerel. That stock will be split sixty/forty in favor of American fishermen, and there will be no reciprocal fishing rights. The basic problem involves setting of the OSY. Though the Mid-Atlantic Council has control of the mackerel plan, we will be in the minority on the joint commission. Therefore, if

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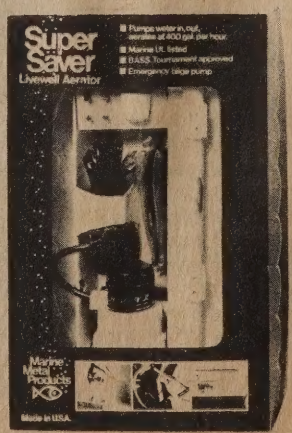

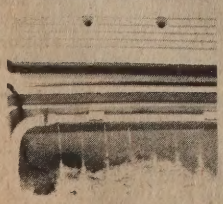

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both Canada and New England want to exploit mackerel at a greater rate than we consider wise, we will effectively lose control of our management authority. Even if we have the backing of the U.S. delegation, a disagreement with Canada will push the issue over to an arbitrator—once again, taking management out of our hands.

There may well be some means of dealing with this problem more effectively. At least we now know where we stand and can take action accordingly. The signing of the treaties is of little consequence, as they will only go into effect when both countries ratify them. Not only must the Senate ratify the treaty, but both houses must pass the implementing legislation. Hopefully, some of the potential problems pointed out by the Councils can be corrected in this process.

Sportsmen Applaud Selection of Al Peterson as NMFS N.E. Director

Sport fishermen in the northeast are delighted with the selection of Al Peterson as Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Al has been chasing bass and blues since he was a kid, and helped put himself through school with money earned in that fashion. He worked himself up to the top professional position in marine fisheries in Massachusetts, and recently took over as Chairman of the New England Fishery Managment Council. Al carries into his new position an unprecendented combination of experience at both the State and Council levels, which will enable him to relate effectively to all of the many problems he'll be facing in that "hot seat." The fact that a director with a strong sport fishing background was chosen is, perhaps, also an indication that Commerce is fully aware of the value of recreational fishing. Al will be filling the big shoes that Bill Gordon left behind (Bill's now handling an important assignment in Washington); but we wish him well—and assure him of our support, even if we have to disagree from time to time!

North Pacific Council Recommends Maximum Penalties for Japanese Violators

During January, two Japanese trawlers fishing in the Bering Sea were seized by the Coast Guard for underlogging the amount of fish actually on board. The North Pacific Council has recommended the maximum penalties for these violations—including the possibility of revoking permits to fish in the U.S. fishery conservation zone. It's ironic that the latter request should even have to be made—and yet, many foreign vessels with poor records of compliance with our regulations have their permits renewed almost automatically. The Japanese also had a lot of trouble in the Gulf of Mexico that month. The Coast Guard boarded seven Japanese ships a total of ten times—and issued eleven reports of violations. However, ten boardings in February led to only one citation.

In all fairness to the Japanese, they have generally been the most cooperative of the nations fishing off our shores. This particularly applies to the squid fleet operating in our area. They've pioneered the development of off-bottom trawls that have greatly reduced the by-catch, and have maintained an excellent record in complying with regulations and avoiding fixed gear. In view of the poor performances of some other fleets, it's hardly fair to provide quotas to violators which could be granted to those who cooperate.

THE FIGHTING CHAIR
(Continued from page 5.)

lottery, with the winners blessed with a fishing position on the stern? Or establishing a number of "teams" that take turns fishing from the stern? The most complicated system we have heard of being devised to overcome the problem is used in California, but it sounds like fishing on West Coast boats may be mistaken for a barn dance rather than a bunch of people out for a day of fishing. We've been told that upon paying their fare, each fisherman is given a number which corresponds to a numbered position around the rail of the boat. This is your starting point. Periodically during the course of the day's fishing, the captain of the boat will stick his head out of the wheelhouse and yell "change!" or something to that effect, and everyone moves one number to the right. In this manner, by the end of the trip everyone has spent an equal amount of fishing time at every numbered position on the boat—the bow, the sides, the stern, cabin, etc. We don't know whether this ritual is actually used in California or not, but we wouldn't be surprised—we've all heard of even stranger rituals being done in San Francisco. We only have one question: if someone is caught cutting-in, do they have to clean everyone else's fish?

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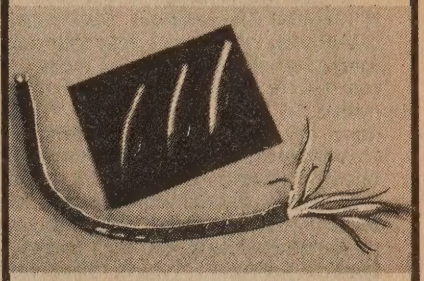

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WHICH BAIT FOR FLOUNDER

RICHARD MANKOWSKY OF HUNTINGTON asks: "Although I catch my share of flounder each spring, I've never had a really big score—the kind I read about in the pages of The Long Island Fisherman! So this winter, I decided that I'd better do a little more homework about flounder and see if I have overlooked something. I have tried chum; every type of rig sold, and every port of call; yet somehow I've missed the boat. I have read, with much interest, your articles about Peconic Bay flounder and in most of them you praise mussels as bait; while some of the other writers and the fishing reports suggest using other baits such as worms clams, and piggyback snails. What is the best bait for flounder?"

ACTUALLY, Dick, there is no such thing as a perfect bait for flounder. All of the things that you have read are accurate. Each of us—even writers and captains—prescribe to a slightly different approach to flounder fishing. Thus, our habits tend to reflect where, when, and how we fish. Sure, I believe that the bank mussel is a superior bait, but then again, look where I'm fishing! In Peconic Bay the mussel does usually outproduce other types of baits in the spring. I don't think that any one really knows why—but I can guess. First, much of the bottom of Peconic Bay is harder than, let's say, the Great South Bay. Soft rich mud holds a much greater variety of baits than does sand, or sand mixed with a little mud. In Peconic Bay, most of the flounder will be stuffed with either amphipods or piggyback snails, and as a result, worms and clams just don't seem to perk up the appetites of the flounder. Then too, the water is usually a little colder out on the east end and as a result, the flounder are a little more sluggish. The mussel bait represents a soft and succulent bait for sluggish flounder and they can pick up the bright yellow color across a considerable distance on the bottom. This is not so for the rust and brown colored worms, as well as the white clams which blend into the background very well. Why then, you ask, don't I recommend the use of piggyback snails out in the Peconic? Captain Clark is very high on piggyback snails because they are indeed a fine bait. However, for the average person, piggyback snails may be a little hard to get. Second, the snails must be fresh or the flounder will shun them. For these reasons then, I have always used mostly mussels for bait out east and I think that I will continue to do so.

THAT'S FINE FOR THE SPRING! The picture changes on flounder baits as the season progresses, even in Peconic Bay. Towards the end of the run, let's say in late April and early May, some folks find that worms and clams out-catch the mussels. In Long Island Sound, the sand worm is often the preferred bait because this seems to be a natural fodder for the flounder up north. At Montauk, on the other hand, I have seen plenty of evidence that clams may be far superior to any other bait that you can use. Why? I don't know; but they work. In other places, like Moriches Bay, Shinnecock Bay, and in Great South Bay, many a sharpie swears by a combination bait: either mussels and worms or clams and worms. Still, I always use mussel wherever I fish because unlike some other baits, flounder will almost always show some interest in mussels no matter where you fish. Furthermore, I'm very familiar with the way a flounder takes a mussel bait since I've been using them for so many years, whereas, I sometimes get fooled when I'm using worms—I strike too quickly.

A SIMILAR LETTER CAME IN FROM MIKE BAKER. "The other day I went out with a few friends to try for flounder and we did well, too. We brought worms for bait and corn, mussels, clams and cat food for chum. We fished for several hours with only an occasional fish to show for our efforts. During that time I tried corn, mussels, and cat food for chum. Finally, I thawed out some clam bellies and lowered them to the bottom. The response was fantastic. We started taking fish after fish and nice fat ones too, considering the early season. Now, you're always telling us to use mussels for chum. What happened?"

DARNED IF I KNOW! There's a nice cop-out for you. You know, lots of folks think that flounder are easy to catch. I don't believe it! It could very well be that I'm a terrible fisherman and that's why I have to work so hard to catch flounder. However, I may not be a star, but I think I'm not Joe Novice either. There are days when flounder commit suicide, but these are harder and harder to come by each year. On those days we've caught flounder on bologna and chummed with sand. Unfortunately, there are far too many days when the flounder are picky and then they want only one bait and only one chum. Some folks say it's the moon tides, the winds, the water temperature, and for all I know—maybe it's the fault of little gremlins. I have fished in water that was so clear that you could look over the side and see the flounder covering the bottom, but no matter what you dangled in front of their snobby noses, they would have none of it! Can you pick fish under these circumstance? Yes! How? By a combination of preparedness and diligence. People often chide me for being prepared for elephant when all that I want to do is to catch a few flounder. They could be right; but I try to be prepared for all contingencies. The boat probably looks like a freighter, but I have several different baits, different style rigs; cans of every kind of chum that you can imagine, heavy chum pots, light chum pots, and plenty of hot coffee. So, Dick, it might have been the stage of the tide; it might have been the spot you fished, or—as you you experimented until you found the chum that turned them on.

STILL MORE ON FLOUNDER! Mike Tolder wrote to add fuel, not to the mussel bait controversy, but the "where to fish" fire. "I've come across a lot of information that suggests you fish in the middle of a mud hole for flounder, but I haven't found this to be the case at all. I do most of my fishing in Moriches Bay, and I have found that the best flounder fishing in that Bay is often close to the edges of the channels along the slopes."

MIKE HAS A GOOD POINT! Most fishermen do fish the bottom of the holes and in some bays score well; but as Mike points out: "I think that you have to gear your flounder fishing style to the spots that you fish. In Moriches Bay, much of it is very shallow and sandy so that when the tide moves in, it pushes the baits off the sand flats and into the channels where the flounder often gather for the feast. I'll fish the bottom of the channels at low tide because for some reason, the flounder move off the edges of the slopes and back into the holes when the water drops. I think this, too, must have something to do with the way the bait moves around."

HEY, DON'T FORGET ABOUT LONG ISLAND SOUND! Dominic Restivo of Massapequa has been corresponding with us for several years. Dom is always one of the first to hit the water for early flounder, and his impressive catches are adequate testimony to the quality of his fishing skills. "You know, most folks associate flounder with the South Shore and east end bays, but if you overlook the fine flatfish potential of Long Island Sound, you're making a big mistake. Not

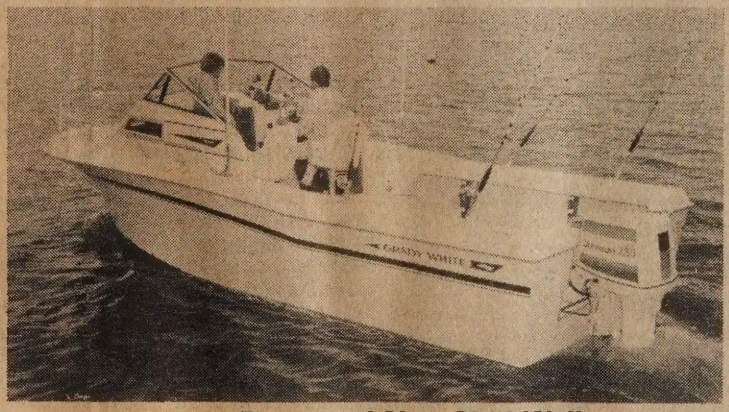
only are Sound flounder plentiful, but sometimes I think that they're mean, too. Last week (mid-March) we fished the Duck Island area of Huntington Bay and took home about forty nice fat flounder. The fish weren't huge the way they'll be in late April, but they were hungry. We started out using worms and mussels for bait, but we kept losing our baits as fast as we put them on the bottom. At first, I figured that there were a lot of little fish around; so we chummed a little more hoping to draw bigger fish to the boat. It took about a half-hour before we realized what was happening. Those flounder were so aggressive that they were stripping us of our baits before we could engage the reels and take out the slack. But we solved the problem by switching to clam bait which is a little tougher and it took them a little longer to clean the hooks. Son of a gun! Wouldn't you know it that those flounder were so charged up that they carried on in the fish box for the better part of an hour! I tell you, I've never seen anything like it in the thirty or so years that I've been flounder fishing."

SOME GOOD POINTS! Dom makes a few very good points. Without doubt, Long Island Sound is a good place to fish for flounder. In the early part of the season, the bays and harbors seem to produce best, but later on, many outside spots produce some really large fish. Places like Mount Misery Shoals, Callahans Beach, Center Island Reef and points east and west are worth trying. If you don't have a boat, there are party boats that leave from City Island, The Bronx and Huntington that can put you into the fish. Check the fishing reports for the best times to go. In spite of the fact that we think of spring and flounder in the same breath, the quality flounder season can be very short in some spots. You can catch good fish from late February to June; but you'll likely have to bounce around. Big fish generally start in the Great South Bay anywhere from late February to mid-March; while filleting size fish may be had in east end waters in early April or even late March. The two and three pounders start to put on a show in Long Island Sound some time in April; while at Montauk snowshoes can be caught right through most of June. Don't forget about the South Shore Inlets which often produce big flounder in late May and early June.

THE IDEAL FLOUNDER TRIP! If I could have it my way—just once—the day would go something like this:

*Calm
*Sunny
*About 60° to 65°
*Flounder hitting clam (cheapest and easiest to keep on hook)
*Use one rig all day
*Smallest fish two pounds
*My feet stay dry and warm
*I'm fishing with a good friend
*I take loads of good pictures
*The motor doesn't give me any trouble.
*The fish are hitting a few minutes from the dock, instead of an hour
*I don't put a hook into my finger
*And I get home early enough to clean the fish and eat them before falling asleep.

1979 GRADY-WHITE 240 OFFSHORE



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For the daytime angler, access remains the number one problem, and I suspect that this is the main reason that the often excellent fishing found here is not more widely publicized. All along the Bronx shore line, from Spuyten Duyvil north, Conrail is between you and the river. This is a well-used commuter line. I do not advise crossing their tracks, as it is both illegal and very dangerous ("third rails" and 60 mph trains that make very little noise). I made a few calls this winter to Conrail's Public Relations Department, and found them to be cooperative and helpful. In liaison with their Engineering Department, they suggested that there are some fourteen stations between Spuyten Duyvil and Croton, each with a parking lot and over- or underpass of the tracks, which could be used to reach the river. There are two safe routes to the shore line in the Spuyten Duyvil area that I personally have knowledge of: one in the Bronx, and one in Manhattan. For the Bronx, take the Henry Hudson Parkway (West Side Highway) north to the 253rd Street/Riverdale Avenue exit. On the exit ramp, bear right as if making a U turn. Take the first right, across the bridge over the Parkway, and again bear right. Make a left at 254th Street, follow it to its end, and park legally in the area. Cross over the railroad overpass, then walk over the rusted tracks to the shore. In Manhattan, take the West Side Highway north to the Dyckman Street exit, follow the exit ramp to Broadway, then make a left on Broadway. Follow Broadway to 218th Street, where you make a left. Go down 218th Street to its end; park legally, and follow the shore line (this is Inwood Park). Fish anywhere along the shore here (many rips and eddies) or else make a left and take the path that goes up the hill, under the Henry Hudson Bridge, and down the hill to fish the Hudson or the railroad bridge.

Surf Side with Nick Balamaci

BIG APPLE BASS

★ PART TWO ★

Of course, if you can find a parking spot, you can park on Manhattan's West Side near any of the West Side Highway's exits, as these provide access to the shore. The Dyckman Street area itself is a good bet which I haven't tried yet; it should provide a more southerly access to Inwood Park.

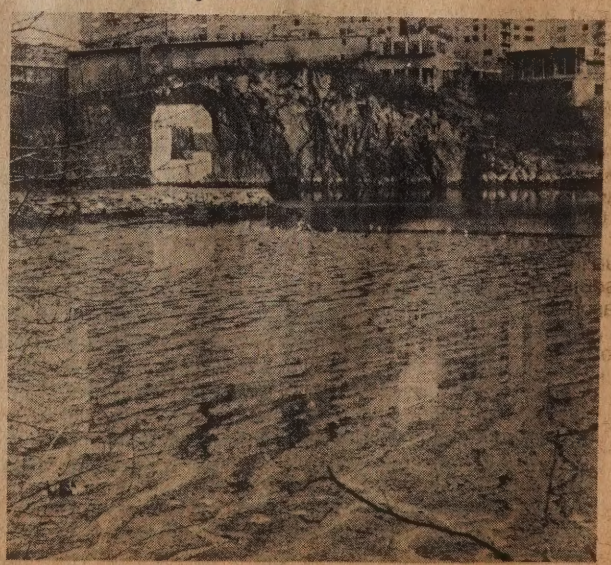
By the way, you will not believe you are in Manhattan when you visit Inwood Park. It is usually clean and quite beautiful, with the path through the towering cliffs giving some breathtaking views of the area. One can, for a moment, envision the beauty that was all of Manhattan in the late 1600s when it was a fisherman's and hunter's delight. Don't take my word for it: go see it. You can even take the wife for a walk here in late fall or early spring (as I did), and get her noticing the splendor of the area while your eyes covertly scan the water for the hotspots! Do this on a calm day when the water is flat, and you'll see the various turbulences that exist.

Although these waters have a reputation for pollution (both visible and invisible), this does not seem to matter too much to the finny and feathered residents. I have read that the Harlem River has a visibility of six inches; yet perhaps hundreds of thousands of striped bass swim through it on their way to and from Long Island Sound. Killies abound in the shallow coves whose mud flats contain some worms. And these same waters attract and hold a decent amount of water fowl, including the supposedly fussy ducks. Don't get me wrong; there is a lot of debris in the water. However, regardless of that, it is still quite alive.

It is the practice of the regulars I've met to release most (If not all) fish. The consensus of opinion is that this is a sport fishing locale, not a place to gather table fare. Hudson River bass generally have a poor taste due

Henry Hudson Bridge; the path to the Hudson River passes under it along the cliff. Photo by Mike Carr.

A few casting platforms in Riverdale at 254th Street. Photo by Mike Carr.



A view to the north from Inwood Park. There are mudflats in the foreground and a rip just beyond the flats. Photo by Mike Carr.

at least in part to pollution; plus they are often not fit for consumption with the sometimes high level of PCBs in their system (thank you, General Electric! I'd rather pay more for my light bulbs). Those who are not regulars seem just as pleased to catch an eel as a bass and often keep their catch, which unfortunately, usually consists of a few shorts as well as schoolies. I know that the sportsmen reading this article would not do the same; however, please, if you see an obviously uninformed comrade, politely educate him as to size limits and bass ecology, plus the dangerous PCB levels in the bass and especially the eels.

The availability of bass at this locale and their usual small size have inspired me to purchase a fish tagging kit so that I may additionally contribute somehow to the survival of this great species. Most of your fish will be gently released; why not send them off with a tag? Tagging kits are available from the American Littoral Society, Sandy Hook, Highlands, N.J. 07732. You must be a member of the Society or a member of a club which has a membership in the Society. Individual membership is $15 and includes privileges and literature. An additional $3.50 is required for the kit itself (both amounts are tax deductible). If you feel the way I do about bass, it is well worth the fee.

These are what I consider to be a few very good signs for these bass, and thus for New York bass fishing in general. I have heard that the last two year classes in the Hudson were pretty good. This is confirmed by my own observations on the number of short bass caught and released in this area this past year. These bass were mainly from five to ten inches, and (my guess) probably came so far down-river from their usual summering grounds due to lots of competition up there. Also, a fishing buddy of mine witnessed hectic action while driving in the area of the Tappan Zee Bridge in October. He described wide expanses of water erupting with short bass breaking the surface, fiercely competing for some small bait. Additionally, early in 1978 there were many stories of blitzes up-river; the bass charging the beaches there, with some big bass caught. Western Long Islanders should keep their fingers crossed and buy those tagging kits!

This article may have been surprising to many readers; however, the best surprise is yet to come. I first found this spot when I read in a book that the majority of Hudson River Stripers migrate through the Harlem River to the Long Island Sound. I reasoned by positioning myself at a narrow spot along that route I would give myself a good shot at at least one of the great many bass that must pass through Spuyten Duyvil on their way to the Sound. Needless to say, it worked: I caught a bass! Now here is the point: this locale lies smack on a busy migration route. While this means that the fishing is likely to be best in the spring and fall and picky in-between, it also signifies something very important to the bass hound who is ready for a straitjacket by March—you can get an early and consistent start to your season here! Traditionally, Little Neck Bay is where it all begins. Well, why hope for it to start producing when you can intercept the fish a week or two before then? Instead of waiting in Little Neck Bay for wintering L.I. Sound bass and segments of the Hudson migration to arrive, you can be picking away at a somewhat concentrated flow of Hudson stripers. With reasonable odds in favor of catching one, depending a lot on your degree of expertise at it. Even the novice should be rewarded by a few visits here in March or April.

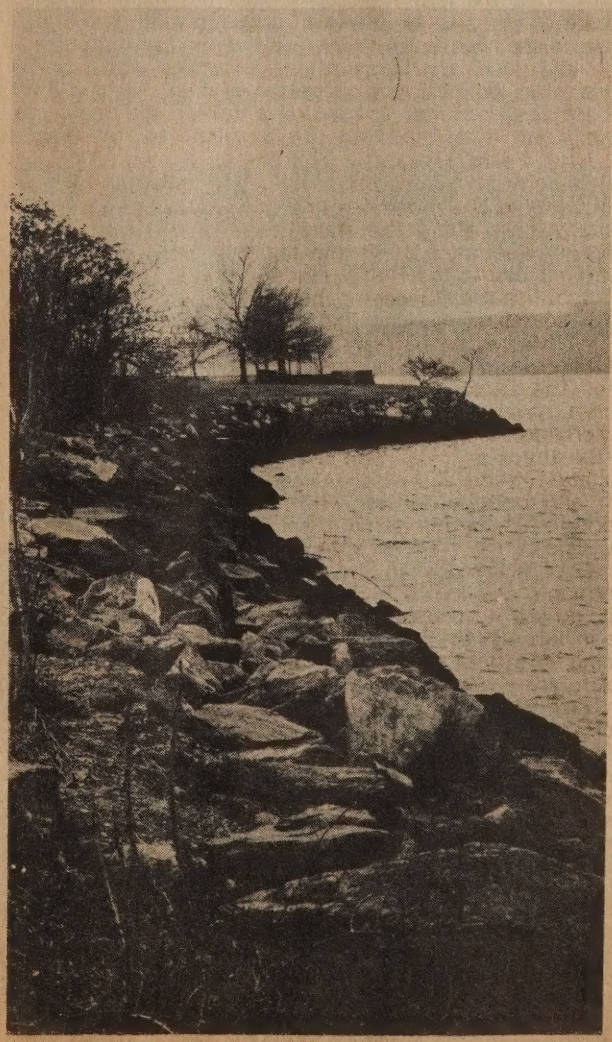
Start your season off with worms (sand or blood) on the bottom. Use a bank sinker; there are many snags in this area and you will lose your share of tackle. The type of rig does not seem to matter, as long as your worms are on or very near the bottom. One liability of this is the incredible amount of eels that inhabit the Hudson (especially on overcast days). Bring gloves or a towel to unhook these slimy contortionists. You have at least three alternatives after the eel is unhooked: throw it back; keep it in a tank for use later in the season, or else put a 5/0 Beak or Siwash hook through both jaws and throw it back out. Who knows?

Some final notes: when baitfishing here, use 3/0 Beak hooks or larger. This way the shorts are less likely to be damaged by ingesting the hook. Bring along a quantity of sinkers from one to five ounces, for the variety of conditions to be found in this one small area. Daytime bucktailing and night plugging begin shortly after the worm fishing starts. Take a few bucktails with you and see if the fish are hitting artificials yet. Hip boots are not a must, but are highly recommended. At least wear waterproof boots. Also suggested are a pair of strap-on creepers, felts, or golfers' rubbers; this area is rocky and the rocks are slimy from marine growth. Winds can be helpful, but I haven't found them to be particularly harmful. Again, the variety of spots and their relationship to the wind means that there should always be a place for you to fish.

Dress warmly, make no fires, and please do not add to the littered condition of this water. Perhaps one day, with a shoulder-to-shoulder effort by us and other environmentalists, the Harlem and Hudson Rivers will again be clean, and will yield the same fast bass action they did in the late 1800s, when Hell's Gate (another very famous East River rip) was "the place to go" for big striped bass in New York City.

I consider myself a newcomer to this area; there are many far more knowledgeable than I. But I have learned a lot so far—both firsthand and from some regulars, and pass it on to you, as this fishing is good and somewhat consistent—yet never publicized.

Good luck and have fun!



Another good casting point a little south of the railroad bridge. Photo by Mike Carr.

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

SNOWSHOE FLOUNDER

Mention snowshoe flounder fishing to the average Long Island bottom fisherman and he'll react in one of two ways: he'll either nod his head emphatically in remembrance and say "Yeah, Man, that's great fishing!", or he will admit he'd like to try it "one of these days," and maybe he will. But few of these "like to" fishermen actually bring the desire to fulfillment. Most will excuse themselves by saying it is either a waste of time, or too much of a specialized type of fishing to interest them, or that there are now so few of these giant flatties available today that it isn't worthwhile. There may be something to the last remark, but nothing at all to the charge that it is specialized. As for being a waste of time, I doubt that. To the avid fisherman, no part of his sport is ever a waste of time. As for being specialized, if you can catch bay flounder (and who can't), you can also catch snowshoes. It is as simple as that. To the remark that there are fewer snowshoes available today, I'll be the first to admit that this is so. But that doesn't mean there are no snowshoes for the fellows who want them; only that instead of catching ten or twelve or these outsized flounder per trip (a common occurrence at one time) they might have to settle for less than half that number.

But when you figure a true snowshoe would be at least four pounds, and possibly as high as six, this doesn't seem so hard to take. And how do you know you won't hit one of those days when six or eight "monsters" wind up in your bucket? This joyful event isn't at all uncommon, and happens more often than one might suppose. And don't forget, if you fish for snowshoes around the Montauk area, there is always an excellent chance of snagging a good-sized cod or pollack. And don't overlook the possibility of large blackfish. No, I don't think it is a waste of time at all.

How large do snowshoes get? An interesting question, indeed, and it depends much upon where you fish. At Montauk, snowshoes have been known to go six pounds, and I once saw a larger fish than this. I've caught several which weighed in the five pound range, and one nearly six. But commercial fishermen on the George Banks have taken them to ten, and I once saw a Bureau of Fisheries photo of a twelve pounder taken from there. Now, that's some flounder!

The chances of catching such outsized Georges Bank-type monsters in our local waters are slim, indeed, and I wouldn't even consider the possibility; but four pounders are common enough. And a four pound flounder is certainly nothing to sneeze at.

Most snowshoes are caught aboard Montauk party boats and are often taken incidental to codfishing. But this isn't to say you can't try it on your own, providing, of course, that you have a suitable boat capable of fishing ocean grounds. I enjoy fishing the Washington Shoal area for snowshoes, and on nice days there is no danger involved for the fisherman with a seaworthy craft.

One word of caution about fishing Montauk waters. Take no chances with the weather. This can be a treacherous area to fish and you **must** have a seaworthy vessel.

Forget skiffs, and such small boats. If the weather report isn't favorable, forget it. That's the time to fish protected waters if you wish. Play it safe at all times. The open sea is no place for foolhardy fishermen.

We are fast approaching snowshoe flounder time. Some will be caught by month's end, but May provides the best opportunity to score. This is the only fly in the ointment as far as snowshoe fishing is concerned—it's short-lived. Extremely sensitive to rapid changes in water temperatures, few snowshoes are caught past memorial Day, although there have been seasons when it extended into early June. But to be on the safe side, anyone having designs on these flatties should think about getting out sometime next month.

Tackle requirements for Montauk fishing are simple, being no more elaborate than that used in protected bays. However, because the fish are larger, water depths greater, and currents stronger than those found in bays, all tackle must be on the heavier side. It isn't necessary to use codfishing gear—even though the chances are good when fishing these Montauk waters that cod will be taken.

A medium-weight conventional rod with some backbone and a matching reel filled with at least 150 yards of twenty pound mono will do nicely. With this light line, an eight ounce bank sinker will get by most times—although a ten ounce diamond style sinker may be occasionally needed. Extra terminal gear should be carried as good fishing is often found on obstructed bottom, and in such places fouling is common.

Cod caught close to shore at this time of year aren't large—averaging about five pounds, with the possibility of a ten pounder or so always good. An occasional pollack can be expected on a good day, but these are not as certain as cod. The pollack are usually small, running less than five pounds—although at any time one in the mid-teens may happen by. I once nailed a twenty-one pounder on the Washington Shoal while snowshoe fishing; so you can never tell.

Hooks for snowshoes are the usual Chestertown style, but instead of a size nine or ten as used in bays, most fishermen use the larger number five; however, the selection can range from four to six. It is surprising to some fishermen that even large snowshoes have the usual small mouth associated with all winter flounder—which, of course, is what this fish actually is. They are

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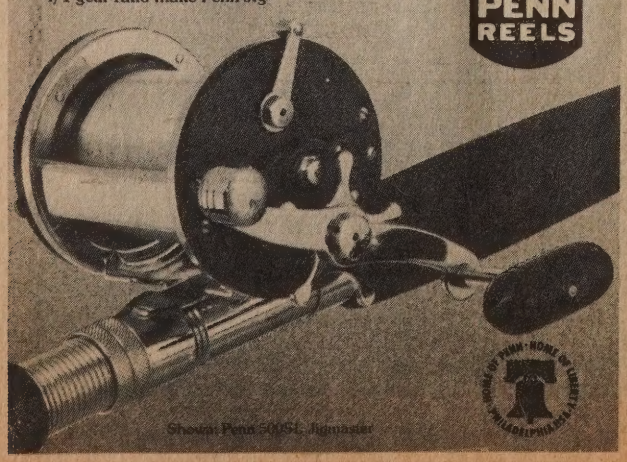


Shown: Penn 500SL Jigmaster

not a separate strain of flounder as many fishermen believe. Two of the proper-sized hooks tied tandem-fashion and attached about two inches above the sinker will do the trick.

Because cod and pollack can be expected, it is a good idea to attach a 5/0 or 6/0 regular shanked Sproat on an eighteen inch leader about three-and-a-half feet above the sinker; pollack especially will seize this top hook, but cod may take the bottom hook as well. But fret not, that larger Chestertown will hold your fish if you keep the reel's star drag properly adjusted.

The prime bait for Montauk snowshoes is the lip of the skimmer clam. It is best to remove the black "string" and cut each strip in half, making four baits from an average-sized skimmer. Loop the hook through the lip several times, making sure a two-inch "tail" is allowed to trail in the current. This is very important. Fishing bait this way also means you must give the fish time to get it down. But whatever you do, don't bunch your bait if you want action from snowshoe flounder.

Slice the meaty part of the skimmer into two or more pieces, depending on size, and use a single slice on the top hook for cruising cod or pollack. It is always best to cut skimmer so that some of the soft stomach remains with the bait. This is the piece de resistance of all sliced skimmer.

Whether fishing is done at anchor over known producing grounds or by drifting throughout the area depends upon weather and tidal conditions. My choice has always been to anchor and get a little chum working if it is at all possible. Because strong currents may prevail, chumming with whole cracked skimmer can be difficult, for often by the time these reach bottom, they are too far away to do much good. I have tried a heavily-weighted chum pot filled with cracked mussel when fishing under these conditions and the results have only been fair.

If you can work it so that the pot remains stationary, it is to your advantage to fish as close to it as possible. When I find these extra-strong currents, I just take my chances with a heavy sinker and put faith in jigging with one-foot sweeps of the rod. When weight is felt, it is always best to give the fish time to get the bait down as mentioned. Cautiously check again, and if weight is still felt, sink the hook with a quick lift.

While most fishermen associate snowshoe flounder with Montauk, these fish are also caught in Gardiner's Bay and throughout the eastern reaches of Peconic Bay. Promised Land, Tobaccolot Bay east of Gardiner's Island, the deeper spots around Cartwright Island, and westward to the east side of Robin's Island, also harbor large snowshoes. The vicinity around Nassau Point can be particularly good at times.

At this time of year, cod may also be expected east of Gardiner's Island, but usually these are smaller than those found in Montauk's inshore waters, averaging about three, possibly four, pounds. A medium-weight spinning rod with matching open-face reel and ten pound mono will work well—as will the usual conventional gear. Bank sinkers from three to four ounces are needed.

The farther one fishes west of these areas, the less likelihood of encountering cod; therefore, light spinning tackle can be used. Filling the reel with six to eight pound test mono and using two ounce sinkers will do the trick most times.

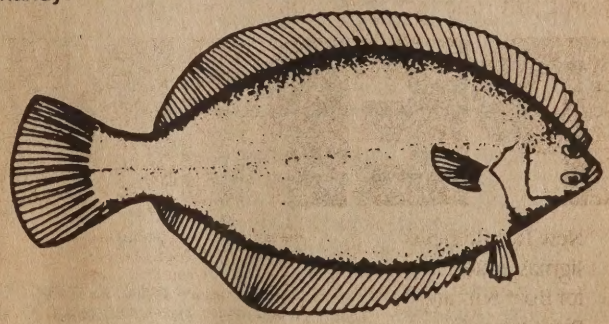
Rigs used in these areas are the same as for all protected-bay flounder fishing. Those larger Chestertown hooks may be replaced by number eights. Dispense with the cod hook, too.

You will find that fresh mussel is the choice bait for these larger flatties. The fresher, the better; which means forget the parboiled, salted, and steamed stuff. Use right out of the shell if you want your share of good-sized fish. And by the same token, don't bother using sand or bloodworm; they will only get you smaller bay flounder.

I believe drifting is the best way to work these areas, but if you'd rather anchor, you should get some cracked mussel overboard—either by hand, or preferably in a chum pot. And don't overlook jigging. It really works on these larger flatfish.

So, don't be one of those "some day I'll try it fellows." There's no time like the present. Maybe you'll come up with a five pounder. Don't scoff. It happens many times every year to those fellows who make the effort.

Oh, yes, don't forget a net—it's liable to come in handy.



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EAST END FLOUNDER FISHING

by Ron Onorato

One of the more interesting things to look forward to come the end of April (aside from the usual dazzling run of codfish) is the showing of big flounder out around Montauk Point. While much has been written about Quincy and Chatham, and indeed, these spots are truly exceptional flounder areas, Montauk showshoe flounder fishing is a lot more intriguing for a number of reasons. Unlike many other spots where the flounder can come over the rails in vast numbers, on your best day out East you might pull forty fish. Secondly, the fish are spread out in very large areas and are not concentrated in small areas; and it takes a certain degree of expertise to find them. The fish run big and are a little smarter than their smaller and more numerous counterparts and are a little more particular in their feeding habits. All of these things add up to a very challenging day on the water when you decide to give them a shot.

Fortunately, the flounder fishing in general seems to be a bit on the up-swing after many years of very poor quality fishing. Mixed fish of all sizes were taken at various spots near Montauk, Gardiner's Bay, and the Promised Land area in reasonably large numbers. For the first time in many a year, local and occasional fishermen could go out and expect to make a good hit with the fish. By the time the end of the season rolled around, it was evident that the fish put on a decent showing.

The first flounder fishing to get under way out here starts with a showing of smaller fish inside the harbors, such as Montauk Harbor and Three Mile Harbor. Usually around the first of April these smaller fish will take some baits. However, most people don't bother too much with these fish, because for the most part they are pretty small, and are sought only when weather conditions prohibit them from venturing outside for other species. The really big fish don't make a showing until the end of April or the beginning of May, with the best fishing to be had around the middle to the end of the month. If the water temperature remains on the cool side, the fish will linger right through the first weeks of June, although little fishing activity will be directed towards them at this time because of the arrival of some of the other warm water species. It is usually around the Memorial Day weekend that some of the biggest flounder of the year are hoisted from the waters around Montauk Point. Unlike many of the South Shore bays that get a good showing of fish in the fall and early winter months, it seems that these big fish make thier only appearance during the spring. Where they go after that, and why they do not return during the fall, is a question many fishermen would like to know.

Ray Bennett shows 3 lb. flounder taken near Gardiner's Island in late May.

Let's take a brief look at the tackle requirements before we get into other areas of this fishing. You can pretty much use the same tackle you do for the big flounder as you do for the small guys. The main difference, and it is a significant one, is that the tide flow will vary from place to place, and tackle that is suitable for fishing one spot will be totally inadequate in another spot. If you are fishing some of the quieter waters around Gardiner's Bay and Three Mile Harbor, you will find that for the most part, the tide isn't altogether that stiff, and you can get by with reasonably light sinkers. However, if you move out of the quiet water and start fishing some of the faster and deeper channels, or are fishing closer to Montauk Point itself, you'll find that in order to stay anywhere near the bottom, heavier lead is definitely needed. Naturally, those light one-handed spinning rods become inefficient and are not productively used. Of course, this doesn't mean that light tackle can't be used. On the contrary, reasonably light tackle is both necessary and enjoyable to use.

Terminal tackle is pretty much the same as that which you've used all along for smaller flounder. The fish are a lot bigger, but there is no real need to go to bigger hooks on that account alone. There is no flounder in the world that is going to straighten out a #6 Chestertown hook. Most fishermen have been misled by the old theory that the bigger the fish gets, the bigger the hook you should use. Not so with flounders: a #6 hook is the biggest one you should use, while many of the sharper flounder fishermen stick

with a #8 Chestertown. Forget about spreaders, offsets, and all that other hardware that flounder fishermen are so fond of. All you need is a simple snap, two flounder hooks snelled on a fifteen inch length of mono leader and a sinker. Simply attach one leader midway up the leader of the other hook and attach the open end of the other leader to the snap, and then throw a sinker onto the snap and away you go.

As far as the actual fishing techniques go, the same principles hold true for the big fish that are used for the smaller fish. The slow gentle lift, rather than the quick rapid jerk is used when trying to hook the fish. The big flounder take a bait in a sucking motion just like the smaller fish.

As far as chumming goes, you chum for the big fish just like you would the smaller ones. Much has already been written about chum and chum pots in previous articles; so there is no need to reiterate here. Suffice it to say that without the use of chum, your chance for consistent success is severely diminished. The waters you are fishing are very widespread, and so are the flounder; so proper chumming is the first key to a successful trip.

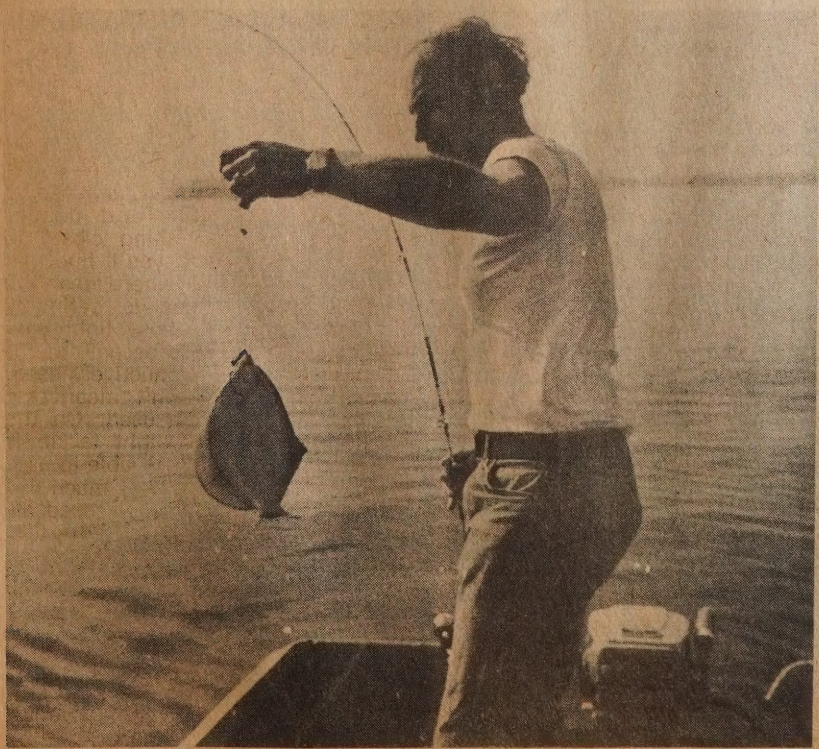
Aside from the size of the fish, there are a couple of other major differences to be found in this type of flounder fishing. Whereas the usual bay flounder is found on a soft, mud bottom, these fish are found on many different types of bottom. They can be caught on a hard, sand bottom; a broken shell bottom; along edges of mussel beds, and around a broken rocky bottom. About the only area where they will not be found is on an entirely rocky area where there are no breaks in the rocks. Another big difference is the spacing of the fish as compared to their smaller counterparts. These big fish will range over a wide piece of bottom, and although are often found in small pods, are never tightly concentrated in one area. For example, big fish might be spaced over a mile of hard sand bottom, with a lot of ground between the next fish.

Because of this scattering of the fish, some new techniques must be employed in an effort to find some fish. When weather and tidal conditions permit, one of the most effective ways to get started is to try long drifts over an area. While the flounder certainly isn't as active as the fluke, they most definitely will take a slowly drifting bait. As soon as a single fish is caught, throw over the hook and start to chum in an effort to get whatever fish are in the area close to the boat. Sometimes you will not take another fish, no matter how much chumming you do, and other times you will get a pick of fish going. If you don't get a fish after a half hour on the hook, then it is time to make a move. What I'll usually do, is wait a half hour past the last fish before making a move, unless the tide has just gone slack. If the tide goes slack, then I'll give the start of the other tide a half hour or so before making a move. If there are a few fish in the area, it won't take them that long to find your chum. Unless you're very lucky and get right on a pocket of big fish, you'll find that many drops on the anchor might be needed to scratch out a decent catch. If you make several drops in an area, and only pick a fish or two at each spot, it might pay you to spend the rest of the tide drifting rather than anchoring. Sometimes the fish are spread so thin that no matter how much chumming you do, you just can't get them concentrated behind your boat. If there isn't too much boat traffic, throw over a small float, and keep working the area with some sort of pattern until you're satisfied that the action doesn't warrant any more of your time.

Virtually any of the customary flounder baits will work well for these big flounder. Fresh bank mussels are by far and away the most effective baits to use when fishing from an anchored boat. It seems that this bait doesn't have the consistency to stay on the hook when drifted around the bottom for any length of time. The next most effective bait—used either while drifting or anchored—is the skimmer clam, used either right from the shell, or frozen and dyed in artificial colors. Fresh skimmer clams are a little on the tough side, and although they stay on the hook for a long time, are sometimes a little tough for the flounder to get down. I like bait that is a bit on the soft side, but not like mush. The thing to do here is to shuck out a bushel of fresh skimmers and freeze them in smaller packages with a light sprinkling of Kosher salt. This will toughen up the clams a little bit, and when thawed out, are in ideal condition for a reasonably soft flounder bait. Try dying some of the skimmers varying shades of red and yellow before you freeze them. Other baits such as blood or sandworms will take fish, but for some reason, do not seem to be the most effective baits to use.

You have a pretty wide area to cover when fishing the east end, and much of the area isn't really conducive to good flounder fishing. There are several spots that are repetitive as to where the flounder will put in their appearance, and each year, some enterprising lads find some new spots that have not been fished to any great extent. Basing the amount of fish that have come from the Gardiner's Island area, it would appear that the waters closer to Montauk Point itself have gained the edge in flounder production as far as numbers and weight go. For the longest time, the east side of Gardiner's Island, commonly called Tobaccolot Bay, was the place to be around the end of May if you wanted some big flounder. Of late, this spot has been disappointing to say the least. Few big fish have been taken from there. A little better spot is located at the southeast corner of the Island, running adjacent to the long sand bar that

(Continued on next page.)



Ray Bennett flips small flounder into skiff; weather is usually nice and you can fish in comfort.

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runs south of the Island. Even as late as last spring, many nice fish were taken from the hard sand bottom in the fifteen to twenty foot water depths. The shift to the best fishing takes place right off Montauk's Gin Beach. It is not known if the flounder could always have been taken from this spot, but last spring there were phenomenal catches taken right out along the beach. It was simply a matter of running about three-quarters-of-a-mile east of the twin jetties and setting up at anchor in eighteen to twenty feet of water on an outgoing tide. Catches ranged from twenty to forty fish, and most of them were over two pounds.

This area has basically a hard sand bottom, so fishing here was no problem as long as the tide was running. When the tide slacked off, the inner reef at Shagwong had flounder like the old days. The way to fish here was to anchor up-tide of the inner reef during the last hour of the outgoing tide, and stir up the bottom with a heavy weight. There are a lot of mussels in the area, and by using a heavy weight, you would keep crushing the mussels on the bottom, and create a chum line right under the boat. The tide runs a little fiercely here, so a chum pot isn't effectively used; nor can you fish here when the tide is running full steam. Later on in the season, some small blackfish will show up on the mussel beds along with the flounder. The one thing that has not returned to this area are the school cod that were so numerous at one time.

Going back to the inlet, and this time heading west, is a place that for the past few years, has been a real sleeper for producing some of the biggest Long Island flounder. The first point on your left is Culloden Point, and it is here among the broken rocks and kelp beds that you will find some really big fish. The bottom is a little rough here, so drifting is not advised. The best thing to do is look for a clear patch on the bottom with your depth recorder, in about twenty to twenty-five feet of water and put the chum pot over. The tide isn't that strong here, so you can use reasonably light tackle. A little further to the west, clear across Fort Pond Bay, is another underfished flounder spot. Somewhere along the line, an old pier was abandoned at the western mouth of the harbor, and as it turned out, was constructed right over a pretty decent flounder spot. Try anchoring right out in front of the old wooden piles where the water is about fifteen feet deep. The stretch of beach running opposite the twin towers at Napeague, also get a good dose of big fish.

This whole area is basically an underfished area and with the good showing of flounder of recent days, might be the new flounder fisherman's paradise.

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EARLY STRIPERS IN STATEN ISLAND & RARITAN BAY

by Richard Giessuebel

Fishing for striped bass can be a very productive proposition, especially if you recognize and adhere to several facts while pursuing this most highly sought-after species. First of all, the Spring and Fall of every year is most definitely the prime time to fish. This being true, many anglers still confine their attempts to the warmer months and complain no end about the apparent lack of fish in the fishery. Well, this may very well be true; however, should they fish during the two prime times they may find it a different matter. Another thing about the striper is that he's a night creature. You've got to be willing to pay the price if you're ever going to succeed. And then there's the location. Everyone seems to think all they have to do is go to the shore, wet a line, and they'll get a fish. Well, this is ridiculous! However, if you really want to score with old linesides this year, I'll spell out in this article exactly what you have to do in order to stand your best chance at being successful.

For the most part, we're only going to concern ourselves with the Spring; yet what I put out can also lead to success in the Fall. Let's begin with finding a suitable location. The first thing that we must consider in regards to a suitable location is to find one where there is some sort of strong current. Striped bass utilize this current to put their prey at a disadvantage. Once the prey is fighting the current, it won't be as aware of the striper as it would be if it were just swimming along. Then, once it's in trouble with the current, out pops the big bass and it has an easy meal. So, let's indicate those areas where there is a rather strong current to contend with. Perhaps the most likely place is smack dab under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge.

Where the bridge itself is located, you have many rivers pushing water at it, especially when the tide is going out. At times like these, you can ride at full throttle into the current and barely make any headway. Can you imagine what it must be like on a small fish trapped in that lethal current? The stripers certainly do, because from mid to late April on they take up residence under this bridge and are caught by many anglers who drift bunker and herring down and at them on the outgoing tide.

This schoolie struck a streamer fly fished in a tidal creek. Author holds just prior to releasing.

The manner in which this is accomplished is that the bunker is hooked with a treble hook through his nostrils running some three feet to about an ounce trolling sinker, which is then attached to your line. Drop the bunker overboard and allow him to sink to the bottom. Then simply drift along in the current and the bass and blues will do the rest.

Another place to fish in connection wth the very same current is from off the beach at Fort Wadsworth or from the concrete retaining wall at the extreme northern end of South Beach. Often, you'll find many privileged characters casting plugs from waist deep in the water out to the waiting and usually feeding bass. Early in the season, many anglers here prefer to fish with worms; however, this is one spot in particular where you don't necessarily have to fish strictly with worms.

One point to consider here is that the weather doesn't usually cooperate and there really aren't that many people who are willing to brave the cold, so for the most part, you have the beaches to yourself. Also, if you're going to wade in the water, make certain that your boots don't leak, and that you don't really go to far out where the tide and current might catch you. Should you get wet, it would be nice to have a change of clothes with you in your car. Believe me, many times a change of clothes has changed what could have been a rather disastrous day for me into one that has turned out to be most enjoyable.

From South Beach on Staten Island, I would go to my most favorite (secret spot) place to fish for the ever-elusive striper and that place is at the end of Arbutus Avenue on the southern end of the Island. Here, you'll find a short wooden breakfront, which hides a storm sewer, that is simply bass land. There is usually a rather strong current here and there's an awful lot of places where bait fish can attempt to hide. Big bass come in here, too, and they can be caught very early in the morning on an outgoing tide (just beginning to run) with either swimming plugs or live swimming bait. At night, fish are caught on worms, and it's not unusual to find many guys here early in the morning who have put in a whole night. Again, a word to the wise should be sufficient: it's cold during the early spring nights and there absolutely aren't any lights or policemen in the area. Therefore, travel in groups and try not to remain on this beach alone for any appreciable amount of time.

Other good spots in the Staten Island area are usually reached by a boat and they're the Islands of Hoffman and Swinburne in the north and the lights of West Bank and Old Orchard almost directly off the middle portion of the Island. These places are very good early in the spring; however, the fish for the most part are small and they don't usually want to chase bait any great distances. What I find that works very well in this area is that I'll get to the areas mentioned very early (like at daybreak) and I'll cruise around looking for where there are some fish breaking water and making visible swirls. Then, I break out the light spinning gear, and I begin to

cast small four inch Rapalas at these fish. They're usually very cooperative and it's not impossible to boat quite a few.

Another great spot to fish early in the season is located at Romer Shoals Light. This spot is located on a course of 150° from West Bank Light and it lies right in the opening of the Raritan Bay to the Atlantic Ocean. There is always a current operating here; and, too, there's often water breaking up and onto the rocks which are exposed there. Stripers like to get in among the rocks and you can catch them by casting small lures into the rocks or by trolling rigs or lures past the rocks. This place can be crawling with bass and should you arrive here at a time such as this, you'll catch untold numbers of them.

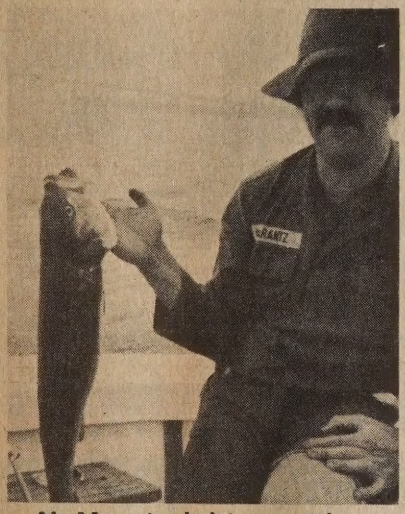
From the light, another area that always produces lies directly in front of you. This area is called "between the channels." It lies about 138° from Romer Shoals Light at a distance of two miles. It can also be reached by traveling at an azimuth of 210° from Rockaway Point at a distance of four miles. This area has plenty of treacherous currents and bait fish and it's a major holding area for all sorts of fish which include fluke, blues, weaks, and whiting (all in season). As for the bass, this spot ranks numero-uno! (That's number one!)

Between the channels is a favorite trolling location for many charter boat captains simply because the fish are usually here. They like to fish for them with umbrella rigs and bunker spoons (depending upon the size of the bass). In order to accomplish this, one must use wire line in the forty pound test bracket at a length of about 120' topped off with about twenty feet on forty pound mono to which the rig or the lure is attached. Then proceed to troll throughout this area. One word of caution here is that when you troll into the current, be aware that your rig'll drop down lower, and that you may have to increase your speed in order not to hang it up on the bottom.

I've seen days in the spring where everything we caught in this location went under ten pounds, and then there are those days that when nothing went under twenty. You've got to get out here to experience this, and if you fish this area long enough, you won't believe that there's any shortage of bass. Also remember that the bass that frequent this spot are definitely those that winter in the Hudson River, and that every now and then, those bass that winter elsewhere show up, too. Therefore, this is a pretty exclusive spot in that as long as there's fish in the Hudson, they'll have to keep coming through here.

Now to round out the locations; let's look at the Norton Point to Sheepshead Bay area. This is a mighty expansive stretch of beach in that it encompasses all of Coney Island. Well, one thing for certain here—there are plenty of jetties in this area, and the jetties draw bass. Therefore, either off the rocks or by trolling from a boat is your ticket to getting a few. Here, surf fishermen early in the Spring should stick to worms; while trollers should use about eighty feet of wire and troll rigs.

Finally, another thing to keep in mind is that bass will seek out tidal rivers and will feed on them on a daily schedule that will bring them back into the same river at the same tide everyday. Tide, not time, is the important consideration here. These fish will move into the rivers on the high tides as long as that tide falls before about 8AM; should the high tide fall later than that, the bass would only venture into that river during the night high tide period. If you've a tidal river in your area, fish it. When you finally catch a fish, mark that portion of the tide you've



Al Marantz hoists a striper caught under the Verrazano Bridge. This bass was taken on a live bunker drifted along the bottom.

caught it on and fish that portion of the tide again tomorrow (about an hour later) and see if you don't connect again. Remember, bass are very light sensitive, so don't expect to catch any after the sun is high or the time I've quoted before.

Estuaries where such tidal conditions exist are at Lemon Creek, Princess Bay; then by Norton Point and in the vicinity of Sheepshead Bay by Mill Creek. The time or tidal pattern, however, usually holds up no matter wherever you may wet a line. So, don't fall into the old bugaboo that if the fish were here today, then they should be here again tomorrow, so you'll get here an hour earlier then. Because if you do, then you'll have to wait an hour longer for the fish to actually get there.

Now, considering you've checked out a few of the locations listed here and you're going to give it a try, my suggestion would be that if you were going to fish off of the beach, then you should use a worm for bait. I'd also tout you to go to a sporting goods store and buy a freshwater plastic worm rigged with three hooks for freshwater bass. Then, remove the plastic worm and replace it with one you've purchased to fish with. Either a blood or a sand worm would do. Then, attach it to your line about three feet below your sinker and you're ready to go. Now, just cast out and wait. If you're out at night, devise something to tell you when you've had a hit. A bell will do nicely. Then, you can nod off or walk about and when the hit comes you won't be caught off guard. Then, if you can establish any kind of a pattern as to the time or tide caught, your future trips will be considerably more productive, for you'll be able to arrive near when you'll think they will be biting and you will be able to leave soon after when they should have bitten.

Try not to fish during the day for stripers. What I do when I want to relax and fish a little during the day is to go for flounder. This way, you won't be disappointed if you don't get any bass, and while you're at it, you just might catch a meal of flatties and a very lucky meal of a bass. This premise is to take what is offered rather than to die looking and hoping for what isn't.

When fishing with worms, it's all right to leave the worms right on the bottom. Bass are scavengers; they'll pick the worm up. And in fact, they're better equipped to get him off the bottom than to just pluck him out of the air or water as he floats by. So, don't use a floating rig until you have to. And the only time you'll have to is when the crabs are stealing your worms off of the bottom. Then, put the worm at the end of a length of line from the sinker with a cork float near the end. This will keep the bait up where the crabs can't get at it.

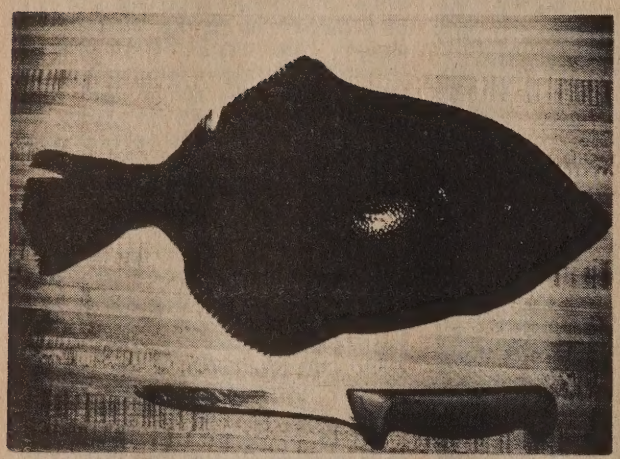
As far as other baits, at night you might use sea clams, or cut mackerel. Then, during the early morning hours you might switch to something like a live bunker or herring. Now, all you do is attach one hook to the bait, preferably through its nostril and then you allow him to swim out. This is best accomplished with a conventional outfit, so you can play out or bring in your line as required. Then, if you get a hit, let the fish run off with your bait. He won't swallow it now, so don't hit. Then, he'll stop! The second run should begin soon. Once it does, count to six, engage your reel, and sock it to 'em.

Well, that's about it. Remember, get the odds in your favor. Fish the best times and the best places. Use the best baits and keep on plugging. Keep good records and eventually, you'll be in the fish and more importantly—the know.

HOW-TO FILLET & COOK FLOUNDER

Ten Easy Steps to Turn Whole flounder into Delicious Fried Fillets

by Scott Simons



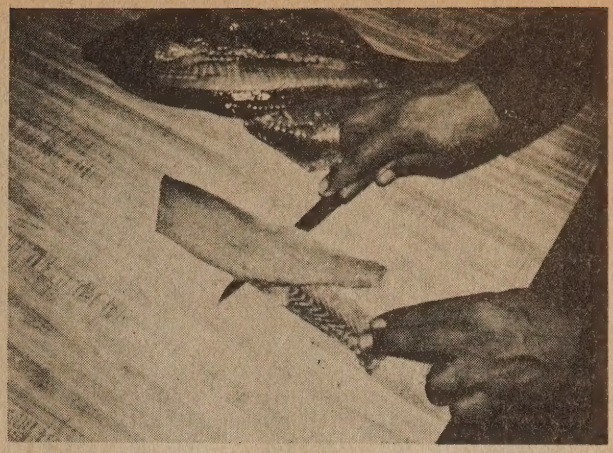
STEP ONE: Flounder, the bigger the better, and a good filleting knife. Blade should be thin and strong, yet still be flexible and kept extremely sharp throughout the cleaning process. Use a whetstone or an electric knife sharpener found on many electric can openers.

STEP TWO: Cut through the skin and flesh down to the backbone in the shape of a capital "T" as shown. First cut is from the top of the fish and runs down behind the pectoral fin to the stomach. Second cut runs along the lateral line of the fish all the way to the tail section.

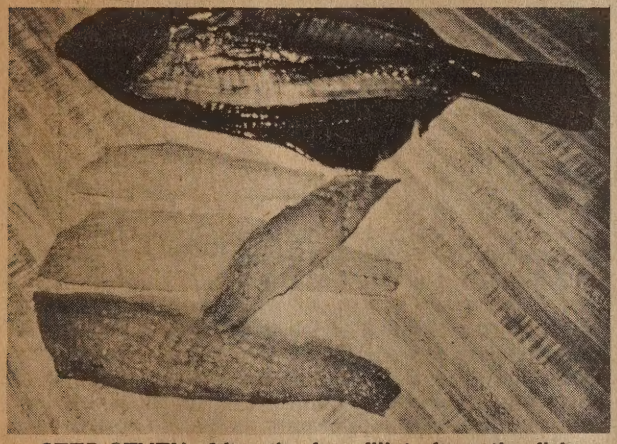
STEP THREE: Place the blade of the knife in the cut along the lateral line and begin severing the fillet off the top of the fish with long, sweeping strokes of the blade. Hold the blade as flat as possible against the bones to prevent excess flesh from remaining and being wasted.

STEP FOUR: Repeat the process with the fillet on the lower stomach side of the flounder. After this fillet has been severed, feel with your fingers to make sure it doesn't contain any small bones from the stomach wall. Turn the fish over and repeat the process to remove the two fillers from the white side of the fish.

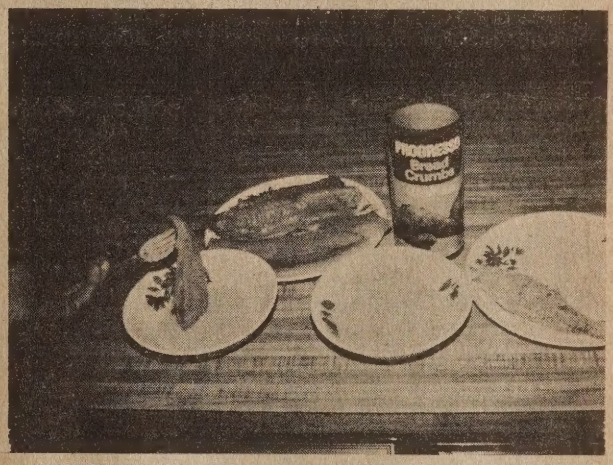
STEP FIVE: To skin the fillets, start by holding down the narrow end of the fillet on a flat surface with the index finger as shown. Then cut through the flesh just in front of the finger, but make sure that you don't cut into the skin itself.



STEP SIX: Turn the blade of the knife flat against the skin and make a soft, sawing motion towards the wide end of the fillet, severing the flesh from the skin. Make sure that you continue holding down the narrow end of the skin and apply tension to make the skinning easier.



STEP SEVEN: After the four fillets from the fish have been skinned, check again to make sure that the fish doesn't contain any small bones. Then rinse the fillets in fresh water and pat them dry with a paper towel, but do NOT let them soak in the fresh water. The fillets are now ready for cooking.



STEP EIGHT: The only ingredients you need to make fried flounder fillets is an egg(s) and a can of Progresso (or other brand) bread crumbs. Put the egg(s) in a small bowl and lightly beat with a fork; fill a second bowl about halfway with the bread crumbs.

STEP NINE: Stab a fillet with a fork and dip it into the egg, submerging it so that both sides are completely coated. Then dip the fillet in the bread crumbs, once again making sure that both sides are covered with the bread crumbs. Place breaded fillets on a separate dish.

STEP TEN: Place the fillets on a pre-heated electric frying pan or conventional pan and cook until the fillets are a light golden brown. Then turn them over with a spatula and cook the second side to a golden brown. Serve with tartare sauce or lemon and homemade french fries. They taste great!

Zebco Omeg
(Actual S

Take A Barracuda For A Spin...

Get behind the new Zebco Omega® 144XL™

Frankly, when this little 3.7 oz. reel hauled-in a 24 lb. barracuda during field tests, even we were a little surprised.

Our concept was to develop the finest reel possible for the growing sport of light tackle fishing. We wanted a reel that would offer the balance of a spinning reel and still retain all the simplicity, and proven features of Zebco's closed-face reels. The result is the new Zebco Omega 144XL.

One thing led to another.

Before we knew it, we had packed the 144 with just about every field proven feature you could ask for. First came an exclusive lever-action *Trigger Release* to give sensitive fingertip control throughout every cast. Then we perfected a drag system called the *Zebco Omega Straight-Line Drag*™. It makes present drag performance standards obsolete (remember the barracuda?).

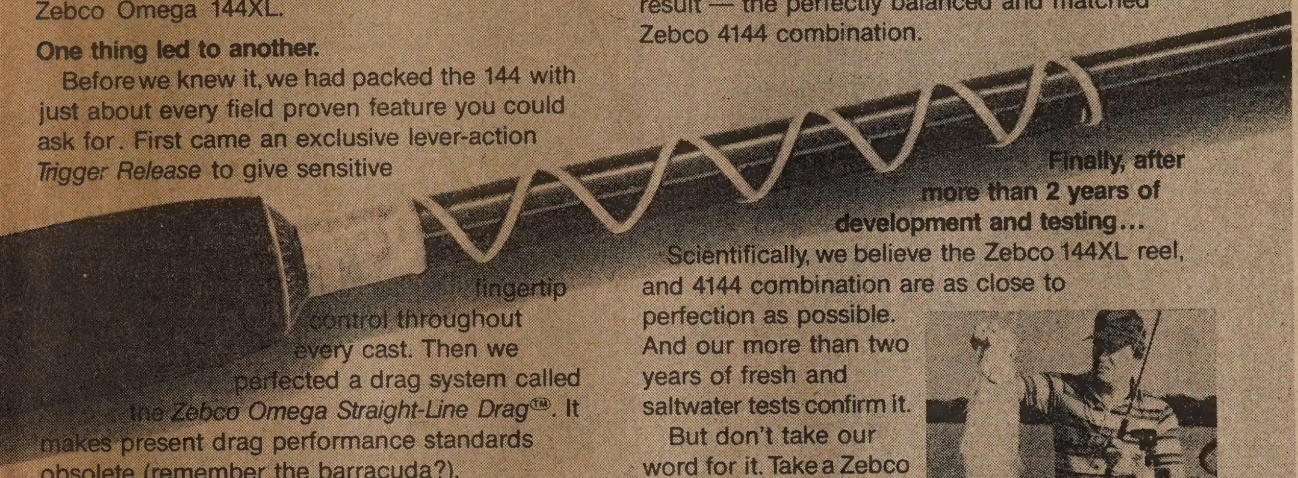
The true heart beat of a reel is its drag; the unseen but important link between the reel...the line...and the fish. Oftentimes... particularly in trophy-sized fish... the performance of a drag is the difference between caught or lost fish. Simply the more perfect the drag, the better it performs.

A perfect drag, measured electronically, would be a straight line. Perfectly straight. This, of course, is not attainable in a fishing reel drag due to disturbing pressures from mechanisms from within the reel. But the new Zebco Omega Straight-Line Drag comes the closest of any reel drag available today.

We took nothing for granted.

We included stainless steel ball bearings for whisper-smooth performance, 4.1:1 high-speed gear ratio, and an interchangeable handle for right-or-left hand retrieve; a near friction-free ceramic pick-up pin that won't cut or weaken lightweight lines, a silent selective anti-reverse, and an easy-to-reach drag control that lets you fine tune the wide-range *Straight-Line Drag* system.

Then finally, we paired it with a 5' tubular ultra-light rod that has glass-to-glass ferrule, anodized aluminum reel seat with double locking rings, and comfortable foam grips. The result — the perfectly balanced and matched Zebco 4144 combination.



Finally, after more than 2 years of development and testing...

Scientifically, we believe the Zebco 144XL reel, and 4144 combination are as close to perfection as possible. And our more than two years of fresh and saltwater tests confirm it.

But don't take our word for it. Take a Zebco Omega 4144 combo for a "Straight-Line" test spin. We think you'll agree, this new Zebco Omega reel and rod combination is the bottom line in light tackle fishing.

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Write for more information about the all new Zebco Omega 144XL.

MACKERELMANIA

by Andy Regina

"Okay, Eddie, close the gate; it's time to go," Captain Pete Anderson called to his competent first mate. It was 4:30 p.m. of a beautiful Friday afternoon in May, and I was aboard the immaculate party boat North Star, out of Jack's Landing at Cross Street and City Island Avenue, in City Island, in The Bronx. We were going for mackerel in Long Island Sound, and the fish were so thick that many Bronx party boats had scheduled evening trips to accommodate the many fishermen that could not get out for the all-day trips, for one reason or another.

Beside the North Star, City Island had another party boat offering these same mini-trips, the Ebb Tide, skippered by Captain Joe Ferrara. In the Bronx River, at Westchester Avenue and Whitlock, the old fox of the Sound—Captain Howard Berlin of the Claire—was also running twice daily for the macs, unlike his brother Eddie or nephew Steve, who skippered the other two Claires that comprised their fleet, and who were satisfied with single operations. Also located there, Captain Ed McComb's Bronx Queen, likewise, was on a once-a-day schedule; as was Captain Dom Cerbone of the Apache and Captain Pete Piccinini of the Lady Luck—two more City Island-based boats. So, as you can well imagine, the big mac attack was in full force at that time in Long Island Sound.

To add to this impressive armada, many of the Sheepshead bay boats on the mackerel trail were fishing the Sound also; the fish had departed their ocean haunts, and those Brooklyn-based skippers ran up the East River and into the Sound to keep their passengers happy. Daytime saw us visited by such well known boats as the Ranger and the Tampa; Captains Scarpatti and Becker went where the fish were, as did Captain Baletti of the Palace—that Hoboken, New Jersey-based boat that was also fishing with us. The Sound was literally wall-to-wall mackerel, and we all wanted some of the action.

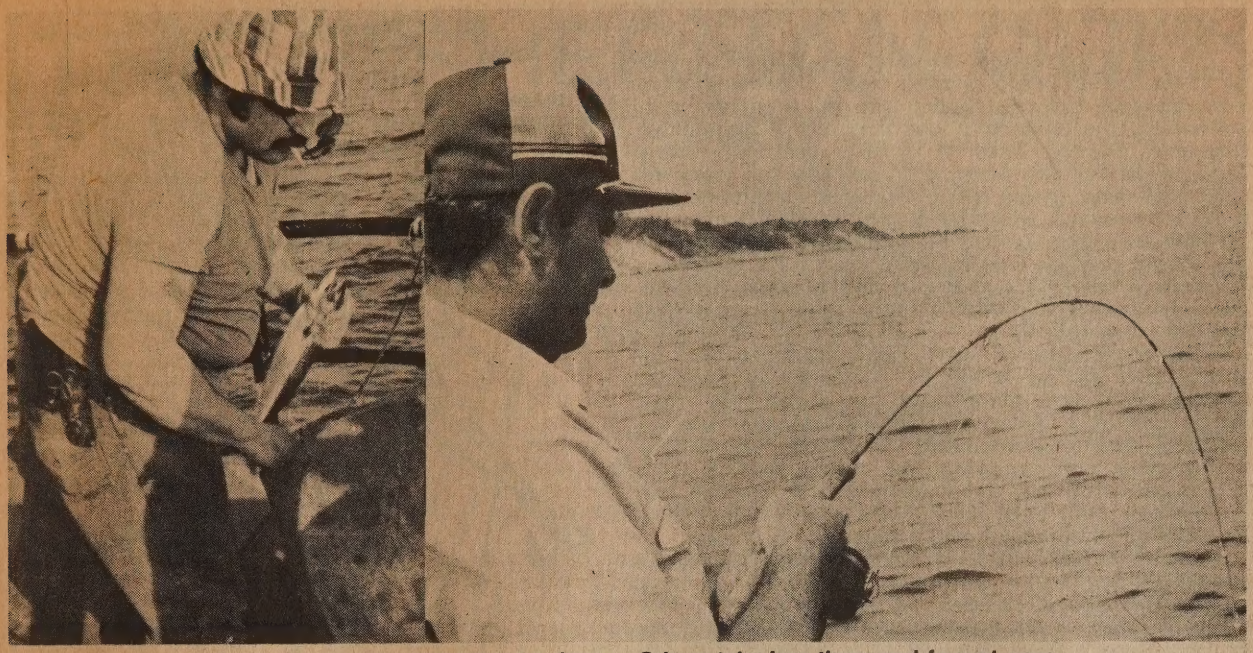
Scomber scombrus is a beautiful fish; sleek and streamlined, its torpedo-shaped body boasts irridescent green hues on top, blending into a silvery-white belly below; featuring dark-colored stripes that zigzag across the back and into the sides like jagged streaks of lightning. The mackerel swims like lightning, too, and that sickle-like tail is the dead giveaway of all marine speedsters. Lacking air bladders that would permit it an occasional respite like other fish, the mackerel must literally swim or sink, because it has no buoyancy. Cousins to the tuna, and related to the rest of the mackerel clan—including the Spanish, the Pacific, the chub, the cero, and the King mackerel—the Atlantic mackerel further boasts of being related to the bonitos and that speediest swimmer of them all, the wahoo.

Truly pelagic (meaning that they freely roam the open ocean), the Atlantic mackerel spends the winter offshore, contributing to a major commercial fishery therein, and was extremely exploited by foreign fishing fleets before our new 200-Mile Limit and restricted catch quotas were established. Highly prized as food fish, this baby is also sought by sportsmen for the thrill and delight it offers on rod and reel. Ranging from Labrador to North Carolina, migrations are spurred by three major factors: food, water temperature, and that old irrestible spawning urge.

In Springtime, when the spawning urge becomes paramount, the mackerel head inshore towards rapidly warming protected waters, and do their thing, frolicking in huge schools that often number many thousands of lovesick fish. And as the water warms to the balmy temperatures of Spring, the fish travel north as they continue to spawn, seeking the somewhat cooler water temperatures of higher latitudes. They summer in the waters of their northernmost venture, commencing a southerly migration as those waters start to become too cool for comfort with the approach of fall, reversing their earlier migration paths until they reach their southern-

Steve, the deckhand, ladling the chum overboard.

Mac attack is on, with double-header coming over the rail as angler in foreground struggles with full tree—four at a time.



Some guys prefer 'em one at a time ... Others take 'em three and four at once.

most areas. Here, when those waters also become too cool for comfort, the fish head for the open Atlantic once again.

It is on this northward migration trek that we intercept these fish each spring, as they invade Long Island Sound in vast numbers, taking advantage of the acceptable water temperatures and bountiful food supply located within its huge confines. They feed on small baitfish, shrimp, squid, marine worms, and mollusk larvae, and the Sound was primed to please 'em, loaded with shoals of small sand eels—a food high on the list of mackerel diets. It is these very baitfish that paradoxically make our mackerel fishing a bait-free proposition too, and we use a rig called a mackerel tree to catch them with.

Consisting of a diamond jig preceded by several teasers, these rigs are readily available at most tackle shops, or from the very party boats that require their use. The rigs can also be easily made by enterprising anglers, and simple instructions are as follows:

Tie one end of a four-foot length of thirty pound test Nylon mono leader to a black snap, using an improved clinch knot. Now tie the other end of that leader to a black swivel, once again using an improved clinch knot, which will give you maximum holding without sacrificing leader strength in the tying.

Once hardware is connected properly, tie three dropper loops equally apart along the leader length, starting about fifteen inches above the snap, placing each dropper loop about the same distance as the first. The knots and dropper loops will now make your leader about three feet long, and each teaser will be about one-third of that length, sufficient room to prevent tangling and to allow easy handling of fish. Lowered to proper feeding depths, this rig is jigged up and down, and creates the illusion of a pod of baitfish being chased by a larger predator, spurring macs to not only try to steal the escaping baitfish, but the imagined predator as well, and often resulting in hooking-up a full tree—four mackerel on at one time.

The tubes are easily constructed also; formed of one-quarter inch plastic or latex tubing, and cut at a slant tapering to one end. A 1/0 Pacific Bass Hook, tinned and long-shanked is then slipped into the tube, and attached to each dropper loop by the hook eye. (See accompanying diagrams for assembly instructions of rigs and tubes.)

This rig is attached to your line at the swivel via an improved clinch knot, and a diamond jig is attached to the terminal and via that snap. Remember to close that snap securely after you attach the jig though, lest it become opened wide during fishing, costing you the loss of a jig needlessly.

Fish are located electronically, showing up vividly on the chart of graph recorders, which further pinpoints effective feeding levels at the same time. These fish are then enticed close to the boat, which by now has stopped all engines and is drifting with the tide, by chumming with ground-up bunker. These oily fish are ground into a pasty consistency which is diluted with sea water in a large barrel, and dispensed into the water with a ladle, luring hungry mackerel to seek the source of the enticing chum slick created, and bringing them within striking distance of anticipating anglers.

Here the huge schools go frantic, racing to compete with each other for the imagined food provided by the scent and taste of the chum, and frenziedly strike at anything even remotely resembling baitfish. If one mackerel takes your jig, or one of the teasers, you can usually assure additional pickups by making that fish swim around a bit, flashing the remaining lures to attract following relatives.

Ideally suited to light tackle, the mac averages from one to two pounds, and provides an excellent, fast, underwater fight that becomes all the more multiplied when additional fish are hooked on the remaining lures. The resulting weight of a treeful of mackerel might just make lifting them over the rail too strenuous for light spinning tackle; so we heartily recommend either intermediate spinning or light conventional tackle for efficient party boat use. Don't forget that you can also use conventional tackle as light tackle also; just use a light rod of about a seven foot length, and keep your line test light also. Here we further recommend using fifteen pound test Ande monofilament, as this line is always supple, never brittle, and is confidently strong, staying at its stated strength throughout its length.

As the North Star passed Execution Light and approached Hempstead Harbor, Captain Anderson pointed out the graph recorder to me, showing faint black scratches about twenty feet below the surface that represented schools of mackerel, and which grew steadily darker and thicker as we slid past the harbor. Just east of Hempstead Harbor and slightly west of Mattinecock, the graph scratched an immense dark

(Continued on next page.)

cloud that could no longer be resisted, and Pete threw the twin diesels into full stop: we had arrived at our destination.

The halt of the engines signalled full activity on deck as Steve, the deckhand, started freely dispensing chum over the port rail, and Eddie trod the starboard rail, instructing the anglers in the fine art of jigging for mackerel. Fishing from a drifting boat has many advantages. For one thing, everyone can fish from the down-drift side, in the chum slick which slid under the boat as we drifted, which Steve was ladling out from the up-drift side. This put all lines into prime territory as the mackerel swam into our slick, and within minutes rods along the rail were bent under fish as first the macs started coming aboard singly, then in pairs and soon by three and fours.

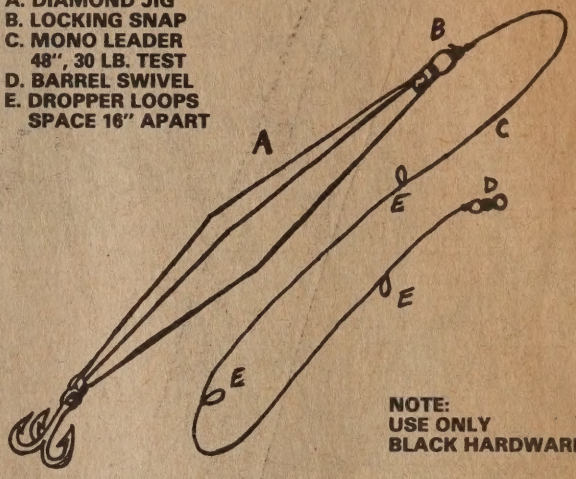
Pandemonium broke loose, supervised by Pete up above, and policed by Eddie on deck, as line got tangled, fish came flying, and in general, the usual happy confusion denoting a boatful of lucky anglers were in their glory ensued. The macs were ultra-cooperative that evening, as we drifted in one continuous drift for about three hours, bailing fish consistently until Pete blew three whistles—the time-honored signal that our time for departure had come.

As we steamed homeward, Pete and I chatted in the wheelhouse as Eddie and Steve were busy on deck below, cleaning fish and cleaning the boat also. Our talk ran the gamut of all fishing friends: the striped bass problems, the excellent work of the Marine Council, the need for sport fishing legislation, backed by sport fishing lobbies, and the pros and cons of saltwater licensing, and the need for a solid block of party boat members. At the present time, there are several different associations; our fleet were members of the Long Island Fishing Association (LIFA), and other fleets had other associations. Pete is concerned about sport fishing's future as we all are—but that's only natural after all.

I mean that the way this man loves fishing is more than just because his livelihood is concerned. He actually loves to fish, and gets down there with the rest of us, jigging for mackerel with a relish. I guess he's afflicted with that same chronic disease we all get around the Sound in the spring. To get off work early enough to make that afternoon trip, I told my boss I wasn't feeling well, and wanted to see the doctor. Little did my boss know that the doctor's office floated, or that my sickness was the same as Pete's and all the rest of that zany gang that day. Of course we were all afflicted with that incurable mackerelmania ...and we loved it!

MACKEREL TREE RIG

A. DIAMOND JIG
B. LOCKING SNAP
C. MONO LEADER 48", 30 LB. TEST
D. BARREL SWIVEL
E. DROPPER LOOPS SPACE 16" APART

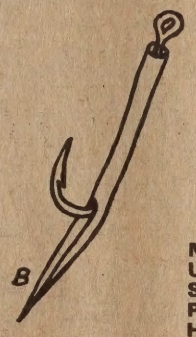


NOTE: USE ONLY BLACK HARDWARE

TEASER TUBE

A. LONGSHANKED NO. 1/0 CARLISLE OR PACIFIC BASS HOOK, TINNED

B. 3" LENGTH OF 1/4" TUBING, TAPERED TO A POINT ABOUT 1" FROM END.



NOTE: USE ONLY STRAIGHT, PLAIN RINGED HOOKS

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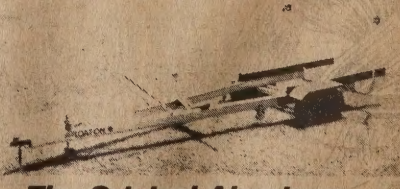

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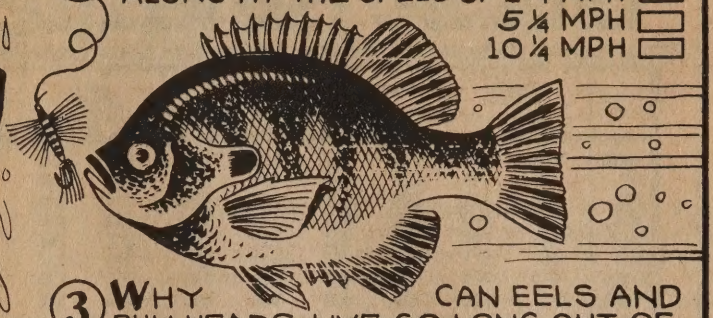
THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) ALTHOUGH GARFISH HAVE GILLS, THESE ANCIENT FISH MUST CONSTANTLY RISE TO THE SURFACE TO EXHALE AND INHALE AIR OR THEY WILL DROWN.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

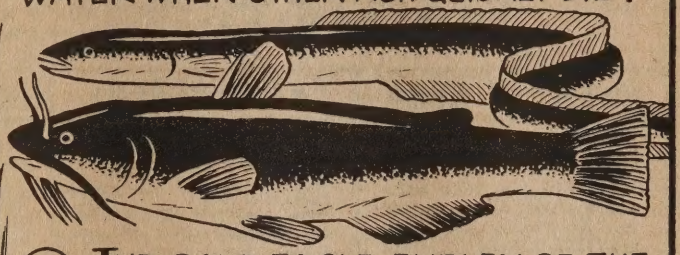
ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(2) THE FRESHWATER BLUE GILL STREAKS ALONG AT THE SPEED OF 1¼ MPH ☐
5¼ MPH ☐
10¼ MPH ☐



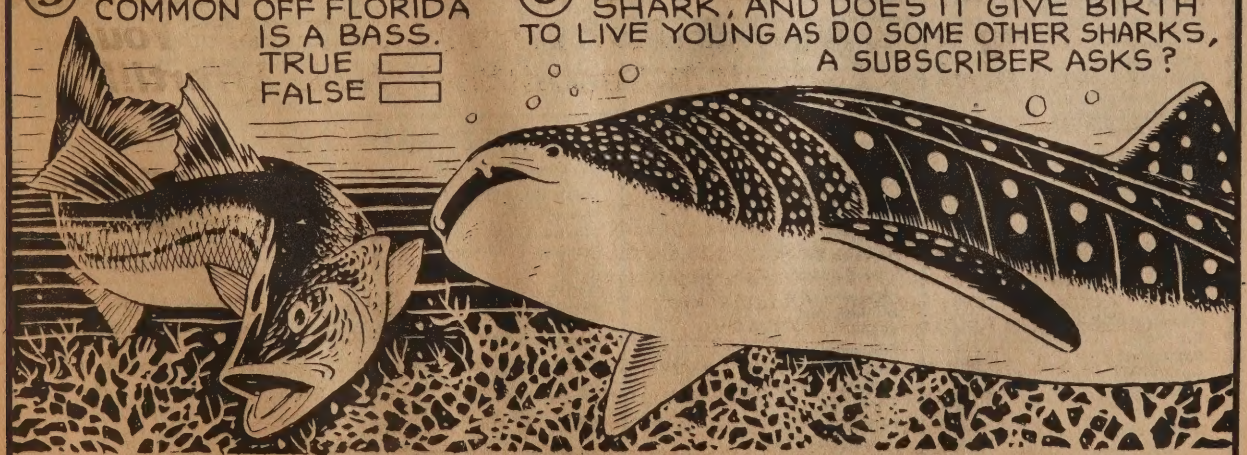
(3) WHY CAN EELS AND BULLHEADS LIVE SO LONG OUT OF WATER WHEN OTHER FISH QUICKLY DIE?



(4) THE BALD EAGLE, EMBLEM OF THE U.S.A. HAS BEEN DECIMATED BY SHEEP RANCHERS' GUNS, TRAPS AND POISON. IN THE LOWER 48 STATES THESE ENDANGERED BIRDS ARE DOWN TO ONLY
800 ☐ 900 ☐ 1000 ☐ BREEDING PAIRS.

(5) THE SNOOK OR RABALO, COMMON OFF FLORIDA IS A BASS.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

(6) WHAT IS THE RANGE OF THE WHALE SHARK, AND DOES IT GIVE BIRTH TO LIVE YOUNG AS DO SOME OTHER SHARKS, A SUBSCRIBER ASKS?



1 - TRUE. 2 - 1¼ MPH. 3 - EELS AND BULLHEADS USE THEIR SKIN TO SUPPLEMENT RESPIRATION AND CAN SURVIVE SEVERAL DAYS IN AIR IF KEPT COOL AND IN 100 PERCENT HUMID CONDITIONS SUCH AS WRAPPED IN WET NEWSPAPER OR BURLAP. 4 - 900. 5 - TRUE. 6 - WHALE SHARKS ARE FOUND AROUND THE WORLD MOSTLY IN WARM WATERS AND ARE KNOWN TO BE EGG LAYERS. LITTLE ELSE IS KNOWN.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	12:36	1:11	1:17	1:57	1:08	1:52	2:07	2:57	3:39	4:24	3:58	4:39	12:41	1:18	4/19
FRI.	1:40	2:19	2:25	3:07	2:11	3:00	3:15	4:03	4:46	5:40	5:04	5:44	1:46	2:24	4/20
SAT.	2:48	3:27	3:35	4:14	3:23	4:07	4:24	5:05	6:06	7:12	6:13	6:47	2:51	3:23	4/21
SUN.	3:56	4:33	4:39	5:15	4:30	5:08	5:29	6:02	7:41	8:21	7:17	7:48	3:52	4:21	4/22
MON.	4:59	5:28	5:39	6:10	5:31	6:03	6:28	6:55	8:50	9:17	8:17	8:44	4:47	5:14	4/23
TUE.	5:52	6:17	6:36	7:01	6:27	6:53	7:23	7:44	9:48	10:07	9:13	9:36	5:40	6:04	4/24
WED.	6:42	7:04	7:25	7:50	7:17	7:41	8:13	8:32	10:38	10:54	10:06	10:24	6:30	6:52	4/25
THUR.	7:27	7:48	8:14	8:36	8:06	8:27	9:02	9:18	11:26	11:39	10:56	11:12	7:18	7:39	4/26

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/1	5:44	6:25
4/6	5:36	6:31
4/11	5:28	6:36
4/16	5:20	6:42
4/21	5:12	6:48
4/26	5:04	6:53

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
4/26	4/4	4/12	4/19

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs.	10:25	**4:45**	10:55	**5:10**
Fri.	11:25	**5:35**	11:45	**6:05**
Sat.	—	**6:25**	12:20	**6:55**
Sun.	12:35	**7:15**	1:10	**7:45**
Mon.	1:25	**8:05**	2:00	**8:30**
Tues.	2:15	**8:55**	2:45	**9:20**
Wed.	3:05	**9:40**	3:35	**10:10**
Thurs.	3:50	**10:30**	4:25	**10:55**

SPRING FLOUNDER IN GREAT SOUTH BAY

by Bob Hunt

The Captree Bridge divides the Great South Bay in two. This mid-Great South Bay area extends roughly from Babylon east to Heckscher State Park. This ten-mile-long area contains many productive areas for flounder. The tackle used here is basically the same as you would use anywhere on the Island. A yellow painted sinker, tandem-tied flounder hooks and calm day are all you need once you find the fish. I mentioned the wind and calm days because these are dominant factors in your success. The Bay is shallow and a strong wind will stir up the bottom and put a damper on the fishing. Let's look at the spots that have regularly produced flounder in the spring. Most areas shown on the chart are within a half-hour from the excellent public boat ramp at Heckscher State Park.

1. Babylon Pool: This shallow, five to six-foot-deep area is located a few hundred yards south to southwest of the Babylon swimming pool Stirring up the bottom helps here.

2. Good Samaritan Hospital: Look for the eight to ten foot holes in this area. The bottom here is weeds, sand and mud. Fish only the mud areas.

3. Brightwaters Flats: When the north winds blow, this area may save the day. Move up close to the mainland and try to anchor directly in front of one of the creeks that feed into the Bay.

4. Bay Shore Clam Flats: There are many good spots in this area which is located between buoys 11 and 1. Move around until you find a productive spot. Anchoring behind a working clam boat is another trick.

5. Heckscher area: The trick here is to find a good piece of bottom. Some of the areas to try are the fifteen foot hole north of buoy 4 and the shallow flats around buoy 3. Mussel chum works here, as well as corn.

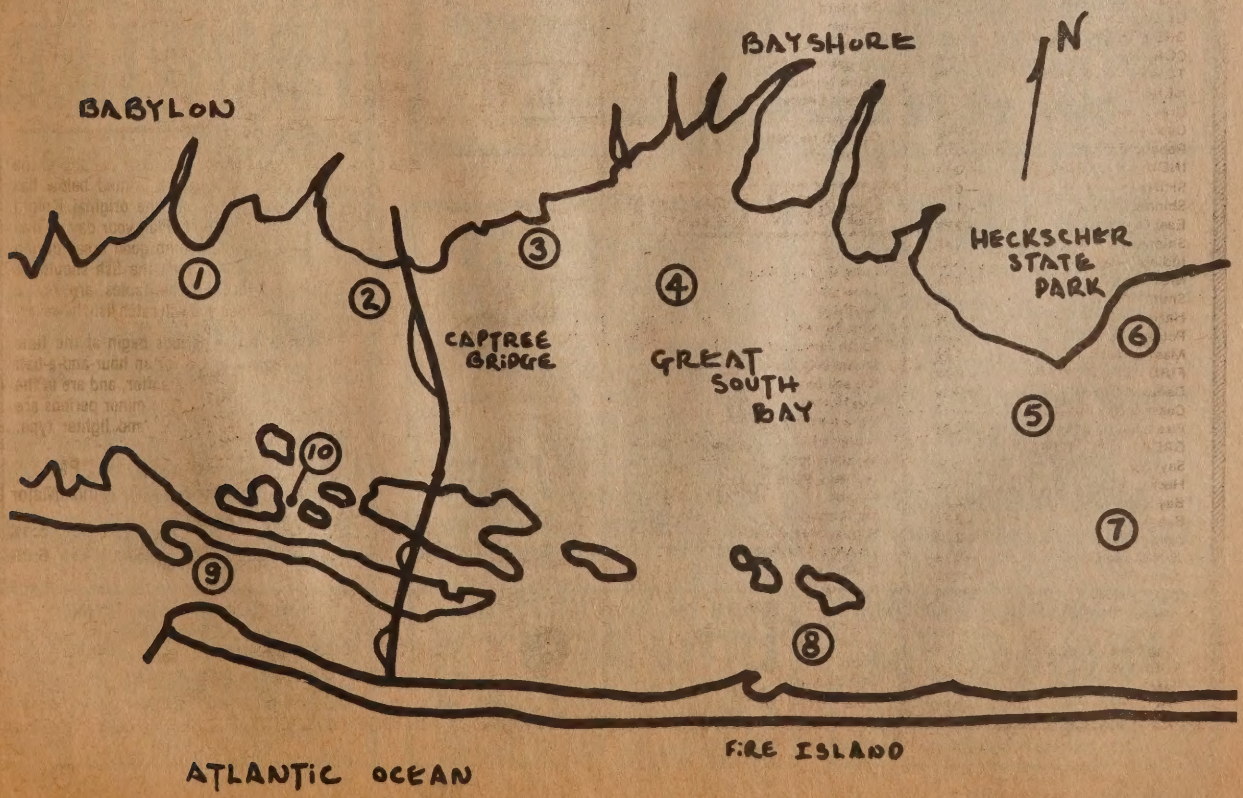
6. Nicoll Point: This is another good spot on windy days. Fish the five to six foot areas east of the point and out of the wind.

7. Mid-Bay Area: The east channel area is located between buoys 17 and 18. Fish the holes and dropoffs of this north/south channel. The area east of the channel is often good.

8. Clam Pond: North of Fire Island (Fair Harbor) and south of east Fire Island there is a large sand bar. The boat channel runs north of the bar. Fish the south and east sides of the bar where the water drops off to six to eight feet. In the late spring, this area produces on a moving tide.

9. Sore Thumb: Located directly north of the inlet area, it is ringed with nine or ten rock jetties. Fish any area between the jetties and the Thumb itself, in late spring. Best time is on outgoing water.

10. Oak Island Area: Fish the channel to the east of Oak Island. Another good spot is due south of Grass Island in the State Boat Channel. Fish the sides or dropoff of each channel.



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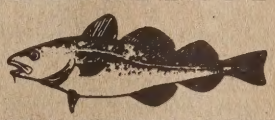

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Captain Chuck Willer of the **Viking Star** reported that the cod-fishing was sporadic during the week, largely due to the high winds. One day would be halfway decent, the next would be poor. Most of the fishing has been concentrated around Cartwright Grounds, south of Block Island and a few fishing showing at the Sub Buoy. Sunday's trip was good with 15 anglers taking about 80 cod. The fish showed up south of Block Island late in the afternoon and they were larger, ranging from 12 to 35 lbs. Although the cod are feeding heavily on sand eels, virtually all of the fish being taken are going for bait. No pollack to report as of yet.

Captain Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** called to tell us he made his first trip of the season on Friday, but strong east winds and lumpy

seas held the catch down somewhat. Most anglers, however, went home with a fish or two. There is no jig action as yet, with all of the fish thus far being caught on bait. Best action has been south of Block Island in 60 to 110 feet of water, with the deeper water being best. Captain Bud said that he's now sailing daily at 6AM and earlier on Saturday and Sunday.

Captain Fritz of the **Mistress II** called to give us his report for his maiden trip on Thursday which included the first news of big pollack. Fritzy said that he took 15 cod, 10-18 lbs., and two pollack that were about 20 lbs. each. The fish were feeding heavily on sand eels and it was just a matter of cruising around with the recorder until you found the bait. Virtually all the action is taking place south of Block Island in 120' of water, and all signs point to an excellent spring run of cod and pollack comparable to the phenomenal run of 1977. Fritz said that he was blown out on Saturday and only managed to take 8 small cod on Sunday.

Captain Artie Gerstmann of the charter boat **Bumble Bee II** called to say that he has been in the water a few weeks now and is available for charter. Although the high winds have prevented much fishing, he did have a few good trips this year already.

Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** reported that he will be in the water this weekend and ready for the spring cod and pollack fishing.

Captain Wayne King of the **King Wayne** sailed a charter for Steve Schulthies and friends from Syracuse on Easter Sunday. They had a slow morning, but action picked up in the afternoon with a very good catch of cod up to 25 lbs. fishing off Cartwright on clam.

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3 MILE HARBOR

Bill Cox at **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** tells us that his boats did well all week long until Friday and Saturday when they were blown out. All week, the average was 80-90 keepers per boat, fish up to 1¼ lbs. Best bait has been worms or mussel and chumming with clam or mussel.

SHINNECOCK

The Captain Clark boats fished South Jamesport in Peconic Bay Saturday. The fishing was slow due to the storm, but Sunday it picked up and was the best day of the spring season. Jody Haynes of Hempstead had over 35 big flounders. Don Greenfield of Queens and his 74-year-old father, Lewis, had over 45 good sized flounder between them. Fish were biting clam, mussel and worms equally. The Captain Clark fleet looks foward to a good next two weeks at the Bay water warms up.

MORICHES BAY

East Moriches Bait and Tackle tells us that John Frame on Sunday boated 32 keepers at buoy 45 on an ebbing tide and bloodworms and clam chum.

Reports out of **Skidmore's Fishing Station** are that the fishing was good on Friday, with up to 40 keeper flounder a boat. Best action has been from buoy 43 to the Westhampton Bridge on any moving tide. It was noted, however, that heavy chumming is necessary for a good score.

HAMPTON BAYS

Ronnie at **Tony's Fishing Station** said that despite the bad weather, plenty of flounder up to 1½ lbs. are being taken around buoy 14, two hours before and two hours after top of the flood. Chumming with mussels helps greatly and the fish are hitting a variety of baits—bloodworms, sand worms and red-dyed clams. Loads and loads of tommy cod are still being taken in the deeper water around buoy 7A in the Quogue Canal. Although these fish only range from 1/2 to 1 lb. in size they make for unbelievable eating.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station reports a few beautiful fish taken this past week from buoy 17 through buys 9 and 10. These are big yellowtails and they have been picked for the last 10 days, though not in any quantities. These areas should produce very well with settle weather. On worms and clams and mussel chum.

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reported good flounder fishing last week at Barrett Beach and Sailor's Haven. Best action seemed to be about 3/4 miles off the beach. Despite the bad weather everybody seems to be getting some fish, many of which are running 1 to 2 lbs. Worms, clams and mussels all produce.

BAY SHORE

The Casey Lee reported fishing has been fair to good depending on the weather. In Sunday's calm, fishing was much improved over Saturday. Fares averaged 15 fish per man up to 2 lbs. Sid Winnick of Bay Shore had 24 keepers on Sunday.

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells us the flounder fishing remains good from Bay Shore through Heckscher Flats for those who braved this past week's weather. The bigger fish have been taken on the Bay Shore flats. Some customers returned with 40 to 100 keepers. The key is a chum pot loaded with mussel chum with clam, mussel or worm on the hook. Tex, a steady customer, came back Friday with 42 keeper flounder taken at Cedar Beach from the surf, fish 1/2 to 1½ lbs.

CAPTREE

Captain Dan Juetner of the **Capt. Joseph II** reported that weather has hindered fishing in the Bay. The weekend saw catches of 7 to 15 fish per man taken in the Ocean Beach and Point O'Woods area. Best fishing has been on the flood tide, both clams and worms take fish. Captain Dan also reported seeing a baby white Beluga whale at buoys 1 and 3, near the lighthouse. The whale has been in the bay for most of the flounder season and has been seen by most of the Captree Fleet at one time or another.

The **Capt. Speedy VI** said that fishing on Saturday was fair at Point O'Woods on both worms and clams. Captain Speedy says there are plenty of fish in the bay and all we need is for the weather to cooperate for some really fast action.

Captain Rod Westerlind of the **Capt Rod** reported tough pickings on Saturday due to the bad weather, with Sunday's fishing much improved. Fish are of mixed sizes, from 1/2 up to 2 lbs., and are being taken both at Heckscher and Cherry Grove.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the Captree Charter boat **Lady Ann**, reported fishing is good whenever the winds abate. Saturday with winds gusting over 35 mph, the party aboard managed 120 flounder for a shortened trip. The fish are definitely there. Worms, clams and mussels are all producing fish at Point O'Woods, Sailor's Haven, the Bay Shore flats and the Heckscher flats. Fifty percent of the fish are small, and the remainder run one pound and better.

Captain Marty of the **Jib VI** reports that there are plenty of fish around; unfortunately, the weather has not been cooperating. Some excellent catches are made whenever the weather is decent. Captain Marty called the fishing the past couple of days only fair.

The Captain Richie reported that he enjoyed a good pick of fish towards the end of last week at Point O'Woods. The pool fish run 2 lbs. or better and many nice sized fish are mixed in the catches. Captain Richie added that the moon tides of the past week attributed to the fishing slacking off somewhat, but things should get back to snuff providing the weather cooperates. A piece of clam tipped with worm seems to be the trick to making better catches.

The Captain Eddy B II called to tell us their Friday charter for the Wall Street Bond Traders came off

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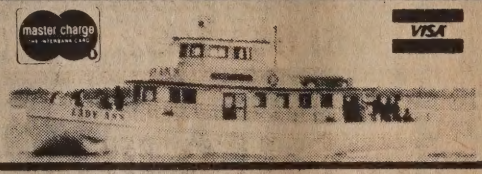

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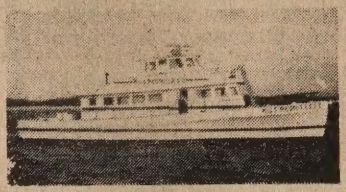

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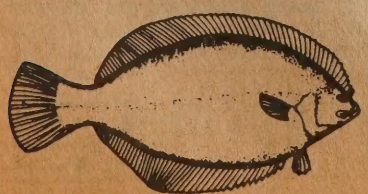

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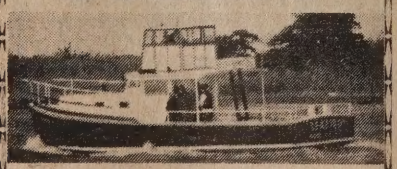
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PUBLIC HEARINGS ON SOUND DUMPING

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers will hold a public hearing on the Composite Management Plan for Long Island Sound on May 3, at the Huntington Elementary School on Lowndes Avenue in Huntington. It will also conduct hearings on the dumping at Fisher's Island of dredge spoil from Groton, Ct., on May 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Greenport High School, Southold, N.Y.

The New York Sportfishing Council urges all fishermen and citizens who have a stake in the purity of our waters to speak out at these meetings. The Army wants to dump on us again. Let's tell them where to dump it.!

well in spite of the weather. Six-year-old Elizabeth Marin with sister Teresa and brother Steven, totaled 50 keepers between them. Saturday's charter for the Long Island RR also took flatties in the wind and rain, though of course catches were a little less than overwhelming. They got their best catch off Point O' Woods on worms and clam.

Captain Roy on the **Blue Albatross** reports good flounder fishing for his Saturday charter fishing off Point O'Woods though they had to return early due to horrible weather conditions.

The winner of this past week's Captree dock pool was a Mr. Sheehan on the boat Reward. The fish was 2 lbs. 4 oz. The pool will be running the entire month of April.

The **Captain Joseph Fleet** reports Friday saw good fishing. There was a slow pick all day, but the last drop was a good one and they ended up with 300 fish for 39 fares. Bill Carberry, with son Bill Jr. and daughter Lisa, had 44 keeper flounder from 3/4 to 1¼ lbs. which were caught from Point O'woods to buoy 17. Sunday, 8 fares had roughly 100 keepers. Catches were on clam, worm and mussel.

Captain Gordon Ronan called to tell us that his new boat the **Captree Queen II** was being painted this past weekend and should be at Captree within 2 weeks. He tells us the south Jersey fleets are getting good hook and line mackerel catches off Ocean City and Cape May; so get your mackerel jigs ready.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle tells us that Mike Moe of Wantagh and girl friend Alice Farber of Huntington Harbor had 40 flounder off the old airplane hanger which is west of the Babylon pool. these fish ran from 1 to 1½ lbs. on worm and mussel on the last of the incoming tide. All anglers who ventured out, caught flounder as there seemed to be a strong abundance of flatties around. A lot of small fish have shown recently as well. Best are the Babylon Cut, Babylon clam flats and Dickerson's Channel.

MECLI RECYCLE DRIVE

The monthly recycle drive of the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island will be held Saturday, April 21, from 10AM to 4PM, at the Pathmark parking field on Merrick Road in Seaford. Look for the Ecology flag.

Materials collected are: newspapers and magazines (tied or untied), aluminum cans, and car batteries.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

AMITYVILLE

Larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** tells us flounder have been caught in varying numbers this past week at the Copiague Hole, Unqua Pt., Bergen Pt., and Four Corners on sand worms, red-dyed clam and clam chum. Fish are running from 1-1½ lbs. And most fish were caught on Thursday.

George Combs Bait and Tackle says that the best areas for flounder will be Fort Neck Pt., Unqua Pt., West Island, State Channel and Squaw, though the last two spots have slowed down a bit. Amityville Channel has been producing also. Some tommy cod in the deep holes at Fort Neck Pt. Plenty of fish around, just need the good weather.

SEAFORD

Pop's Fishing Station reports some fishing activity despite the bad weather. John Wagner Sr. and Jr. of Baldwin had 28 keeper flounder up to 2½ lbs. on worms and mussel chum. The fish are there, you just have to go out and pound for them. Best catches are being made east of Grand Island to Massapequa Cove and Four Corners at high tide all the way down to the ebb.

Shore Isle Marina reports a good codfish catch for Armand DeAmbrosis who sailed 150° out of Jones to 105' of water and bagged himself a 31 lb. cod on April 11. The west side of the first Wantagh has been good for flounder even in this last week's "yuk" weather.

Wanser's Bait and Tackle reports that customers braving the elements are catching flounder at Massapequa Cove, Four Corners and Florence Beach, the State Channel and the Amityville Cut is also producing flatties, all on worm, clam and mussel. A shot of good weather should really show an upsurge in the action.

Ted at **Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station** reports the weekend was a disaster due to poor weather but on Thursday, Tom and Gary Yasitis and Jim Sheehan boated 62 keepers in the Massapequa Cove area on worms, along with corn and mussel chum. Average catches were 5-20 flounder per boat, fish from 3/4 to 1 lb.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station**

tells us he had one boat at Sunday which had 37 keeper flounder taken at Merrick Point, fish from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. and fat. These fish were taken on worms and mussels with mussel chum.

Merrick Marine Tackle Center reports several customers coming in through Sunday with poor to fair catches of flounder taken in various drops in Merrick Bay. They picked a few on all tides, with clam taking the larger fish.

The infamous G. Korn is scheduled to resume his flaky fishing activities again this coming Saturday. Keep watching this column for the adventures of the corn flake.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells of very good flounder fishing in Middle Bay on mussel, clam and bloodworms. Jim Altschul on his boat Rough Rider, had 6 cod up to 40 lbs. fishing 150° out of Jones Inlet in 120' of water, anchored up on open bottom with heavy chumming. Jim is a member of the Freeport Tuna Club.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger's **Star Stream II** enjoyed good catches of whiting and ling at the BA buoy on Sunday. Richie says mackerel are being caught now at Manasquan up to 25 Bostons per man, which is very good for the start of the season. Richie says he's keeping his eyes and ears open for the mackerel schools and once they're within striking range, he will be fishing strictly mackerel and may even try for them this week. He says it looks like a good mackerel season ahead with Bostons of 1-2 lbs. being caught.

The Captain Al reports good flounder catches Saturday and Sunday despite the weather. Thursday saw very good catches of flatties, but Friday was picky. Sunday turned very good towards the end of the day. All fish were keepers, some close to 2 lbs. Al says the fish are starting to move towards the inlet and the channels and he has been catching them on hard bottom, though they still had mud on their bellies. He's been fishing Squaw Island, Scow Creek, Baldwin and Merrick Bays. Squaw has been best and he's been working spots in the inlet, too. Al's new boat, **The**

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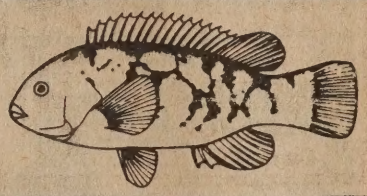

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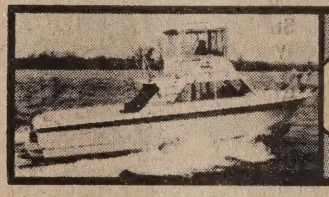

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Captain Bill, which will be run by his son Bill Lindroth, will be sailing 8AM daily trips for flounder, while Al will soon be going offshore for mackerel as soon as the macks move within range.

Bill will hold to the 8AM daily open boat schedule, except when chartered. This boat is the former Captree open boat "Captain Gregory" and is a roomy, comfortable 65-footer. She's said to be a strong steady boat.

The Captain Lou II called to tell us about the flounder which were good all week, but great on Wednesday afternoon, with doubles all over the place. High hook was Joe Frongzkowski of New Hyde Park with 31 keepers. Many fares caught in the 20s. It was the same Thursday; slow in the morning, frantic in the afternoon, with many catches in the 20s. Saturday afternoon was a repeat even with the rain and wind. Sunday's catches were good, with 38 keepers afford high hook honors to Artie Levine of Canarsie. Runner-up was 25 keepers for Little Neck angler Tom Camastro. Bill and George Dadamis had 48 flounder between them and also the pool. Fishing was in local holes and creeks. Sunday saw a triple header and many doubles. Big fish for the week was a 2½ lber.

The Aloma II had very good catches Wednesday and Friday and says there are plenty of fish around, catches being made on mussel, worm and clam in local drops.

Captain Sy of the **Blue Fin II** tells us Saturday's catch was nil due to rain, but Sunday was a lot better fishing Reynold's Channel and the local creeks on mussel, worm and clam. Catches were fair, those that fished and defied the drizzle caught fish. The pool was a 1¼ lb. flattie and the bigger fish preferred red-dyed clam. Best was the change of tide and the ebb.

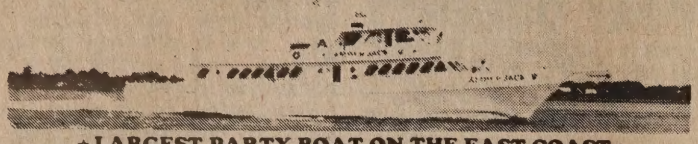
The Miss Freeport had a high hook of 30 flounder Thursday and enjoyed decent catches as the weather permitted, fishing locally with worm, clam and mussel.

Lou Stalker of **Charvin Fishing Station** tells us on Monday morning of this week a gillnetter took 70 lbs. of mackerel in a net in 40' of water just south of the Jones Beach CG station. Therefore, the front runners of this year's spring mackerel run have arrived. Also in the gill net was one small, though legal, bass. The Manasquan- Jersey area and 10 miles south of Barnegat, 7 miles offshore mackerel are being hook and lined quite well. The macs are in the 1½-2 lb. range.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports during the week, one boat that fished Merrick Bay had 74 keepers when he moved to a spot in middle bay. One fish was 19" long which must have been roughly 3 lbs. Boats fishing Merrick Bay are averaging 2-3 doz. keepers per boat on worms, mussel, mussel chum.

★SHEEPSHEAD BAY★

★NEW AMBERJACK V★



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The Freeport Boatmen's Association tells us the Nite Owl II fished flounder Saturday and caught flounder for the charter despite torrential rains and wind. Captain Jimmy fished locally.

Captain Joe Impellizzieri of the charter boat **Ivory Queen** had 2 cod in one hour on Friday, 22 and a 15 lber., for John Townsend, Elmont and party. They anchored and fished open bottom in 110' of water, 165° out of Jones. The boat is booking charters for mackerel right now.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** tells us producing area for flounder on worm, clam and mussel have been Bay Hassock in Middle Bay and the Golf Course off Oceanside.

POINT LOOKOUT

Scotty's Marina reports that Long Creek, Buoy 17 and the flats are producing nice sized flounder on sandworms, bloodworms, clams & mussels. The best time to fish, because of strong full moon tides, seems to be near slack tide. Catches are running up to 30 nice sized fish per boat. Cod are being taken due south of Jones Inlet in 108-120 feet of water. Most fish are averaging 10-14 pounds but are ranging from 6 to 25 pounds and are hitting skimmer clams. The weather is playing a big part in the amount of fish taken.

Ed's Fishing Station reported that the bad weather conditions made fishing difficult on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday some boats did go out, with some nice catches made. Gary Cox and wife Rosemary fished Middle Bay with mussels and worms and took 45-50 flounder in the ¾-1 pound range. When the weather is nice Reynolds Channel, Sea Dog Creek and Scow Creek all produce fat flounder. The fish being taken are getting heavier now and are hitting primarily mussels and mussel chum

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle** reports excellent flounder fishing on Sunday in local areas, with creeks outproducing the channels. There is still a high percentage of throwbacks, 60%, with bloodworms and mussels being the bait. Chumming is important in increasing catches.

Captain Clem of the **Commodore** reports Sunday's fishing was good for flounder, with the last half of the ebb being best. Frank Herskowitz of Oceanside took 24 keepers, while Bill Strobel kept 19. On Friday, Strobel accounted for 14 fish in the wind. Clem says the fish are moving around and into the main channels. He expects to see better fishing as fish are leaving the back bays very shortly. They should be in strong at Reynolds Channels buoys 5 and 9 by this weekend. Fish were in the inlet Thursday on the last of the incoming. Action should be very good once the weather and tides settle down.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina told us that weather conditons are slowing the flounder fishing down in local areas. The average catch is down but bigger fish are being taken on mussel bait. Fishing will improve when we have some nice weather on Wednesday of last week Bernie Haag and a group from the Lynbrook N Middle School took out 6 rental boats and enjoyed good flounder fishing a ½ mile from the marina at the Fire House and at Duck Point. A total of 60 nice sized fish were taken.

Charter boat **Nyar I** reports fantastic flounder fishing last week to the tune of a daily average of 20 keepers plus per man, fish from 1-2 lbs. Big fish of the week was 2½ lbs. Best was on either moving tide. Most fish were keepers.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Atomic II** had a good day fishing on Friday north of Scotland. The trip, only 25 minutes from Dockside, is producing mostly ling in the 2-3 pound range. Some whiting are mixed in with catches that are filling a five gallon pail for most anglers.

The **Dorothy B** has been enjoying excellent flounder fishing all week off the Rockaway Jetty, the Jersey Shore, and in Jamaica Bay. Mussels and worms are taking average catches of 15-20 fish up to 2½ pound pool fish. The bad weather on the weekend slowed down fishing, but it should return with the nice weather upcoming.

The **New Amberjack V** spoke of very good whiting and ling fishing all week. Fish are being taken at Scotland and Ambrose, with the whiting running 1-1½ lbs. and the ling up to 2 lbs. The captain reported that the mackerel are down off of Cape May and expects that by the weekend the fish should be within range.

Sal at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** reports the boats going for whiting and ling are bringing back very good catches from Ambrose. The flounder headboats working Navesink, Silver Hole, Manhattan Beach and off the jetty are also scoring well this past week.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle reports that mussels and sandworms are taking quite a few fish up to 1½ pounds from the North Channel Bridge and the Marine Parkway Bridge. Improving weather this week should make for great fishing this coming weekend.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** said that flounder are being picked up all along the shoreline with piers 8 and

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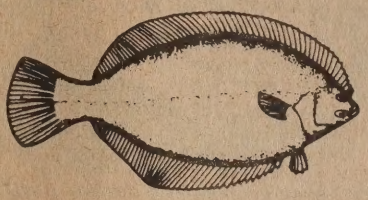
17 and Bay St. at the VZ Bridge being the hot spots. The fish here are running from ¾ to 1½ pounds and are hitting sand and blood worms. Fish in the ½ to ¾ pound range can be taken in good amounts fishing Great Kills Park, Princess Bay and Glover St. Striper activity is slow but picking up at Glover St., Great Kills Park, and Penny Beach. Fish are ranging from shorts to 4 pounds and are hitting sandworms. A nine pound bass was taken off of the Berger Ave. storm sewer. A reliable report from Michaels Marina in Bayonne told of bass catches of 15-20 fish from shorts to 7-8 pounds hitting worms off the Statue of Liberty and the Robbins Reff Lighthouse. This should mean some local action breaking loose soon.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin of **Henning's Fishing Station** reported Saturday was a complete blow-out, but boats that fished Sunday returned with good catches from Reynold's Channel. The Cedarhurst Yacht Club and buoy 5 seem to produce best for anglers using worm bait and lots of mussel chum.



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GREENPORT

Captain George Porter's **Brand X** loaded up with flounder in Saturday's miserable weather, with many fares bagging over 20 big keepers. In over 40 knot winds and steady rain, fish kept coming all day. This was the second Saturday in a row where there were terrible conditions, yet good catches which would seem to indicate an abundance of fish. Saturday's big catch was in just one drop in Shelter Island Sound with worm, mussel and clam on an incoming tide.

A. P. White Bait Shop told us that there are lots of fish around. Fish are being taken at South Ferry, Cedar Beach and the east side of Jessup's. Skimmer clams, mussels, and sand worms along with mussel chum all account for good catches of nice sized fish.

Aboard the **Brand X** on Sunday, seven fares boated over 200 flounder. The pool fish was taken by a Mr. Mori of Manhattan and weighed 2 lbs. 9 oz.

SOUTHOLD

Bill Lieblein of **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reports flounder fishing has been very good. Fish are nice sized, running 1¼ to 2 lbs. South Ferry, Smith's Cove and Jessup's Neck have all been the site of good flounder action. One boat fishing in the East Marion area had 20 fish from 1½ to 2¼ lbs. Smaller fish up to 1 lb. in weight are available to boatmen in Southold Bay. Sand worms, mussels, and mussel chum are the ticket.

NEW SUFFOLK

Captain Marty's Fishing Station reported that on Saturday, only a few fish were taken due to the bad weather, but the fishing was quite improved on Sunday when Vito Moles and George Kideris, both of Flushing landed 70 flounder at the Rose Grove and Nassau Point on worms and mussels and mussel chum. The fish ran to 2½ lbs. and averaged 1½ lbs. These are the finest kind of flounder.

NOYAC

helen at **Noyac Marina** says they had five skiffs out Saturday, all taken by the Skunked Again Fishing Club of Brooklyn. The 15 hardy men

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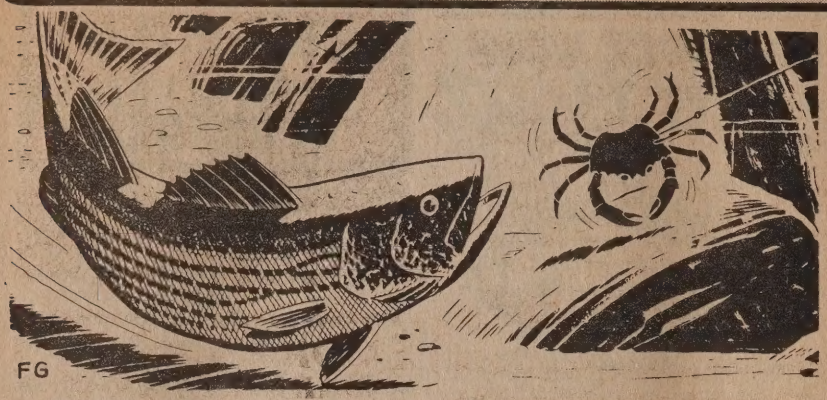

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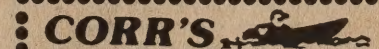

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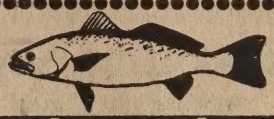

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in the five skiffs fished for two hours until the rain drove them in. In the wet and the cold, all skiffs returned with fish averaging 1½ lbs., all on mussel and worm and mussel chum.

PECONICS

Speck's Bait and Tackle reports that Tom and George Speck fished Noyac Creek on Saturday using blood and sand worms at the top of the tide and outgoing and picked away for a total of 23 good keeper flounder. Tom says when the weather settles, try Noyac Creek, Cedar Point, North Haven, buoy 15, the Monastery and the Peconics, all of which should produce nicely. Shinnecock Canal has slacked off some.

Young Michael "Quanto Jr." Batista proudly displays his first flounder ever. It was taken aboard his father's boat, the George B II out of City Island. Photo courtesy of Jack's Bait and Tackle.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

ROCKY POINT

Stan of **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reported that while smaller fish are available in the harbors, bigger fish are available out in the Sound. These fish run over a pound and up to 2½ lbs. Sand worms and mussel chum produce fish. Stirring the bottom is also a very effective technique wherever feasible.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that smaller flounder are found inside the harbor, while at buoy 11, fish of 1½ to 2 lbs. are the norm. Sand worms and mussels take fish in both areas.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports the weather hurt the weekend activity but despite it, fish were still taken in fair numbers. Whenever the winds permit, big flounder are available to boatmen out in the Sound. The average size of these fish is 1 to 2 lbs. Sand worms and mussels produce fish and the top of the tide seems best.

KINGS PARK

Bob of **O.K. Bait and Tackle** summed up the fishing this way: good, good flounder, bad, bad weather. On Friday, Sal, Paul, and Sophie Bruno returned with 40 keeper flounder up to 1½ lbs., taken at the Mansion. On Sunday, Joe Argiro and Jude Drouin of Pro Hockey fame, returned with 60 flounder up to 1½ lbs. taken in front of the Yacht Club. Also on Sunday, Tom Hart and Alfie Dwyer managed 35 nice flounder including one which weighed 2 lbs. 9 oz. on the shop scale. All of these catches were made on sand worms and mussel bait, with both mussel and corn being used as chum.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** was thrilled with what he described as the most magnificent catch of flounder he has ever seen come out of that section of the Sound. Don Urbanski and Nick Campo waltzed into the store on Saturday with over 75 flounder up to 2½ lbs. Seventy-five percent of the fish were over one pound, including six over 2 lbs. This catch was made despite the sloppy fishing conditions on Saturday in just three hours, in 20 feet of water off of Callahan's. Two anglers used worms left over from the previous weekend's trip which had been blown-out. George said the catch looked more like one made out at Promised Land rather than in the Sound. George also reminded that the corn teaser rig of which he was the originator, and the Tri-Fin "Hairy Hook" both seemed to result in better catches.

Bass are still being taken at Lilco on Whiptails, bucktails and sand worms at dusk and daybreak.

Ronnie's Bait and Tackle reported flounder fishing remains good, with fish mixed in size depending on whether you fish inside the harbor or out in the Sound. Bob Harteg and his two sons fished Target Rock on Sunday and kept 30 nice fish. They used sand worms and chummed with mussels. Ronnie reported that fish at Callahan's are running over 1 lb. up to 2½ lbs. Ronnie also had news of bass at Lilco. John Munno, Jr. and Mark Ranaldo had ten stripers from 3-6 lbs. on worms Saturday PM.

Captain Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say the Coast Guard has approved the boat's new diesel fuel tanks and the boat should be ready to sail Saturday, May 5. Keep watching the Ever Ready ad for details.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** wrote off the weekend to the weather and Easter. During the week, however, good flounder catches were made both by boatmen and dock fishermen. Tom weighed in one flounder of 2 lbs. 4 oz. taken off the Northport town dock on Friday. The Sound beaches are also beginning to produce fish in the 1 lb. class on sand worms.

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Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

SHARK BELT BUCKLE—A knockout! Shows shark in full side view, going in for the kill with jaws open & teeth at the ready. Nose to tail in lustrous antique brass finish. This entire buckle is the profile of the shark. Guaranteed to frighten your wife. Send $5.50 + $.50 postage & handling to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

FREE 1979 DISCOUNT Marine Hardware & Accessory Catalog & seasonal flyers. Full line. ALL BRAND NAMES from a "tach to an anchor" including electronics. STEERING SPECIALISTS. Shane's Marine, Dept. 13, 4365 Austin Blvd., Island Park, NY 11558.

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BOATS TRANSPORTED—G. MAYER & SONS, since 1965. Local and Long Distance launching and hauling at various locations. Insured carriers. Cradles transported. "Tender loving care by George." 5% off with this Ad. 516-588-1500.

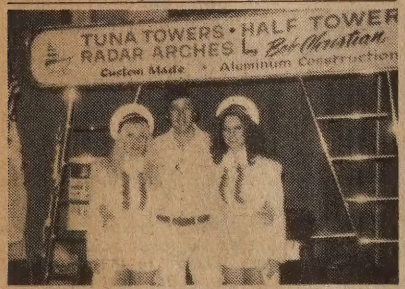
RETIRED MAN LOOKING FOR AVID FISHERMEN to share expenses on speedy 27' Sportfisherman, fishing whenever possible for whatever is in season. Bay Shore area. Call Freddy: 516-581-8090.

DOCK SPACE: Three slips (2 at floating dock) available on Milburn Creek, Baldwin, near Baldwin Bay. Call Rich. 516-546-2571 Eves. (Answering service.)

HAMPTON BAYS—Lovely housekeeping cottages on Tiana Bay. Flounder close by at Buoy 19. Private beach; free dockage; free rowboats. Clam right here. Two people-$65; 5 people-$80. Write or call for brochure. Cedar on Tiana Bay, 30 Rampasture Rd., Hampton Bays, 11946. 516-728-3296. 728-9528.

COLONIAL SHORES RESORT
"A FISHERMAN'S PARADISE!"—Cottages, motel, TV, FREE rowboats, motor rental, bait, tackle, gas. SPRING FLOUNDER ARE IN—only minutes away from your doorstep. WEEKLY & WEEKEND SPECIALS, 83 West Tiana Rd., Hampton Bays, NY 11946. 516-728-0011.

MATE WANTED: For party fishing boat operating from City Island (Bronx) New York. Five days a week. Call between 7PM to 9PM. 914-237-5351. Experienced only.



TUNA TOWERS, HALF TOWERS & RADAR ARCHES—Custom made to your specifications. Aluminum construction, welded joints. Delivered and fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Free Estimate. Call: Bob Christian, Evenings: 516-862-6179.

RAMP AVAILABLE—In and Out within same week, $5 - includes parking; Season Pass-$95. HARBOR MARINE CENTER on the Mianus River, 15 mins. from L.I. Sound, Cos Cob, Ct., 203-869-7211.

PARTS: Gray marine 225 h.p. 327 cu. V8 parts, water manifold and riser like new. Port and starboard complete freshwater cooler with 1¼ pump, 2 fuel pumpers and starter. Reasonable. 914-835-4651.

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JIG FISHERMEN—SOMETHING DIFFERENT. A custom jig tying and custom mold making service (Silicone). Send for my small, free catalog. JACK MURTHA LURES, Rt. 3, Box 358, Summerfield, N.C. 27358.

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EVERYTHING for the saltwater fisherman. Quality tackle at lowest prices. Free catalog. SALT WATER TACKLE BOX, Dept. FG, Falmouth, Mass. 02541.

FREE CATALOG—Quality Saltwater Rigs. HUDSON TACKLE, P. O. Box 437, Dept. L., Kearny, N.J. 07032.

FREE CATALOG—Hooks, rigs, diamond jigs, bucktails, Bananas, Rebels, umbrella rigs, Tri-Fins, and jelly worms. PLUS a lot more at discount prices. Send to: CUSTOM TACKLE, BOX 38, DEPT. 1, SEAFORD, NY. 11783. FOR QUICK DELIVERY: Phone 516-799-7031.

CUSTOM UMBRELLA RIGS
Have you got your umbrella rigs for spring bass, blues, weakfish and pollack? This year use the custom designed rigs that charterboats and commercial men use. All finest construction and materials. Send for catalog. Dealer's inquiries welcome. "SOMETHING FLASHY," P.O. Box 22, Middle Village, NY. 11379.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS (Beware of imitations). Flounders are committing suicide on this widely used 3-hook rig, especially designed for the "Meat Fisherman." Special design and construction keeps tangling of hooks at a minimum. Handmade, finest material. Three completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Turnpike, Merrick, NY. 11566.

WORMS!!! For information, send self-addressed stamped envelope to: Captain Hook, 103 Georgia Ave., Long Beach, N.Y. 11561. Flounder hooks - $1 a doz. Double hooks - $2.50 a dozen.

FREE CATALOG—Hooks, rigs, diamond jigs, bucktails, bananas, Rebels, Umbrella rigs, Tri-Fins, and jelly worms. PLUS a lot more at discount prices. Send to CUSTOM TACKLE, BOX 38, DEPT. 1, SEAFORD, NY. 11783. FOR QUICK DELIVERY, Phone 516-799-7031.

REAL ESTATE

FISHING STATION & BOAT YARD BUSINESS FOR SALE: $25,000. 2/3 Down. Options. Call: 516-363-6024 after 6:30 p.m.

RARE OPPORTUNITY—Boatyard Business for sale, on Merrick Rd. in Copiague waterfront. Only $51,000. 842-5726 After 6PM.

FISH LAKE CHAMPLAIN—May thru September. Walleyes, northern pike, bass, pickerel. Cabins and boats for rent. For brochure: "Champlain Colony," 1546 Dunbar St., Far Rockaway, NY. 11691. 212-471-2834.

SOUTHERN CATSKILL MOUNTAIN LAND—vacationing and/or year-round homes. EXCELLENT RECREATIONAL AREA. Preparing for gravel roads, electric. (3-4-5) acre wooded parcels. $3500 per acre, 10% down, (15) year terms. PRINCIPAL PARTIES INTERESTED. Phone DEER RUN ESTATES. 516-666-6171.

HOUSE FOR RENT—Sea View, Little Bay, Setauket. Excellent schools. Four bedroom, 2½ baths. Built 1972. $595 month. Patrick & Gloria. 212-348-3187.

VACATION RENTAL—COTTAGE
Two bedrooms, living room; small yard. One block Noyac Bay. Fish; clam; bathe; relax. Walk to nearby marina, stores, restaurants. Two-week minimum stay - $250/wk. Book now for your dates. Season-$2500. 516-725-3857 Evenings.

CORRECTION RE:

ANGLING AIDS

N.Y. State Residents who send in for these lures do *NOT* have to include 7% tax. If sent, refund will be sent.

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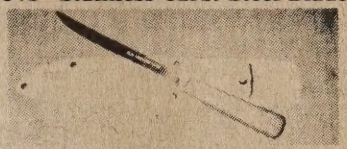

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North Shore West End

★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

COLD SPRING Hbr.

Mark of **Salty's Bait and Tackle** reported big flounder out in the Sound and smaller fish inside the harbor. On Sunday, Jim Matteucci and Hank Ach fished Target Rock using mussels and mussel chum and returned with 150 flounder up to 2 lbs. On Saturday, despite the rain and wind, Dave Tooker fished Lloyd's Neck and had a good catch of flounder up to 2¼ lbs. using sand worms and mussel chum.

GLEN COVE

The area will be getting its first open boat in a long time in the form of the **Lady Lil II**, a 50' diesel powered head boat which will be sailing daily at 7:30 a.m. for flounder. The boat will be at Brewer's Marina, 128 Shore Rd., Glen Cove. For details, call Capt. Joe at 516-261-7145.

CITY ISLAND

The EBB Tide II reports that they fished Huntington Harbor this weekend and did very well on flounder up to 1½ lbs. on sand worms. Captain Joe is waiting for the mackerel to arrive, which should be fairly soon.

Pictured are Joe Pobjechi, Karen Gaiser and Sal Zito with their fine catch of flounder made in the Nissequogue River. Photo courtesy of o.k. bait and Tackle.

Joe Agostini and Jerome Emerick display their pool winning flounder taken aboard the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide II."

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported that a few school bass have been taken from Turtle Cove in the past week. One flounder fisherman reported watching a school of small stripers tearing into bait one day last week. Flounder fishing remains good with Turtle Cove and the Pelham Bay bridge area both producing. Sand worms and corn or mussel chum take most of the fish which are running from 3/4 lbs. to 1½ lbs.

BOATING

SAFE BOATING ON RADIO

The Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission, through its Bureau of Marine and Recreational Vehicles, and in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Detachment in East Moriches, has prepared a series of brief lessons in boating safety.

The series consists of 14 lessons in basic boating safety. These lessons will be broadcast as a public service by four local radio stations. The four stations are WGBB in Merrick; WGLI in Babylon; WKWZ in Syosset, and WNYT in Old Westbury. Please call the radio stations for specific information about the dates and times of the broadcasts.

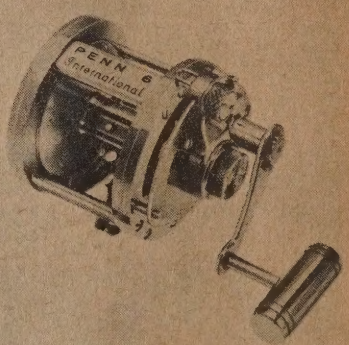
It has been demonstrated that educating boaters is a successful method for reducing the number of serious and fatal boating accidents. While these broadcasts cannot be regarded as a substitute for a course of formal instruction, they may provide a boater with enough information to prevent a potentially fatal situation.

New Products

PENN INTRODUCES NEW IGFA CLASS REEL

Penn, world famous for its International Big Game Tournament Reels has just introduced a light version which satisfies all IGFA Class requirements.

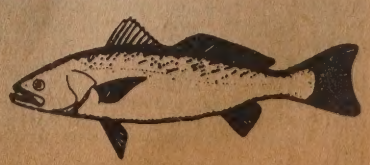
Distinctively and durably encased in precision machined, gold anodized forged aluminum, the new I.C. 6 Light International features a high-speed 4-1-1 gear ratio, extremely tough, chatter-free disc drag system, Penn's pre-set drag which automatically keeps tension within safe limits, 90° arc lever action drag control, and a perfectly balanced frame. If that's not enough, other features include stainless steel pinion, main gear, spool shaft and line pin, positive locking action between spool and shaft, two shielded stainless steel ball bearings,



Penn's warning click system, one-piece solid brass rod clamps, barrel type knob handle with a sealed oil port, and deluxe chrome-plated brass handle, drag lever, spacers, gear stud shaft housing, knob and mounting hardware. Additionally, the left side plate removes easily for drag system service.

The new I.C. 6 Light International has a spool width of 1-13/16", a line capacity of approximately 1200 yds./6 lb., 700 yds./12 lb. and 500 yds./20 lb., Mono. It weighs only 27 oz. Other reels in the new Light International Series include the I.C. 12 and I.C. 12W and are identical to the I.C. 6 except for wider spools and even greater line capacity.

For further information, write or call: Penn Reels, 3028 W. Hunting Park Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19132, 215-229-9415.



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$5 Mini Ambassadeur 1500C narrow spool reel, for light tackle bass fishing.

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$5 Ambassadeur 4500C. Fast-starting narrow spool. Ball bearings.

$3 Mitchell 906/907 skirted spool reels, heavy freshwater, medium saltwater fishing, planamatic gears, ball bearings.

$3 Mitchell 908/909 Garcia's new ultra-light, skirted-spool reels, ball bearings.

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$2 Enclosed is my completed REBAT COUPON along with the CAS REGISTER RECEIPT for the rod pu chased and the PRESSURE SENS TIVE GREAT $ CATCH LABEL FROM TH ROD HANDLE INDICATING MODEL #.

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